

Norfolk
Economic Development Commission,
Elizabeth Borden, Chair
Thursday, June 9, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

Minutes of May meeting:

Motion to approve: Mary Fanette

Motion seconded: Larry Hannafin

Correspondence received from Ted and Sally Briggs to Commission re: lack of care of the Chrissy property. EDC cannot take any action but Sue Dyer will send a letter to the owner

Ryan Craig was present as a guest regarding the proposed Country Store at 6 Station Place. The EDC proposes to do a downtown parking study and proposal on how to enhance parking availability to address concerns raised at the May Planning & Zoning meeting. Mike Goman will conduct the study and present a proposal.

Mary Fanette presented a preview of the new town website which is to be launched next week.

Doreen Kelly spoke about the Weekend In Norfolk. The suggested archway leading into town is not possible as a temporary arch this year due to State of CT restrictions.

The EDC has purchased business card holders for distribution around town for the Weekend In Norfolk, and the EDC will sign a letter soliciting contributions to the project.

Town Center Buildings update presented by Bill Brown. He is still working with Ryan Craig to bring in a Country Store/Deli in 6 Station Place. They met with Norfolk P & Z and are re-submitting for the next meeting on June 14 at 6:30. They are still looking for loan money to finance furniture and fixtures for the building; the committee leading that solicitation is Libby Borden, Bill Brown and Lisa Atkins.

Pete Anderson said the next step after the June 14th meeting is another hearing on June 28 at 6:30pm. Public comment will be solicited at that meeting and it would be helpful for townspeople to attend and speak favorably for the Deli, and what it would mean for the town.

Pete Anderson reported that the Norfolk Foundation now owns 6 Station Place and holds a lease with a purchase option on 2 Station Place. 2 Station Place will be set up as a community hub, with a visitors' center, office space for community organizations, the Norfolk Foundation office, a large meeting room, and exhibition

space. The Foundation expects to start with exhibits of locally-made products on the Weekend In Norfolk in August, 2016. Anderson also reported that they will honor Vint Lawrence and his work on the foundation and has received a \$50,000 gift.

Kim Maxwell reported on the fiber optics initiative in the northwest corner of the state, which is now a non-profit corporation: NWCONNect. His handout is included as part of these meeting minutes. He is working on a proposal with Frontier and will report further on that proposal at the July meeting of the EDC.

Dave Beers reported on a Tree Giveaway of 1,100 free trees with free labor for planting provided it's land open to the public and would accommodate the 1,100 trees. They all have to be planted on one parcel of land. 1,100 trees would fill about one acre.

Jim Nelson reported on the Chamber Music Festival, with events taking place through August 27.

Sue Frisch reported that more events are still coming in for the Weekend In Norfolk project. They will conduct a survey to gauge attendance for the weekend.

Anita Holmes reported that the Community Association is working on several projects including a plaque for the Railroad Gate, the Robertson Plaza fountain, and the Village Green. They will put out an appeal letter for funding this summer.

Lou Barbagallo reported that the Foundation for Norfolk Living has applied to include their properties in the Historic District which will open avenues to State funding. There will be a meeting on June 15th at 7pm at Botelle School.

Marie Lowe reported on the car show which is scheduled for September 17, 2016 from 11am to 3pm to coincide with the Farmers Market. They will use the parking area on the Ellen Battell Stoeckel Estate. Planning will start on June 20th in a meeting with the Lion's Club and the Norfolk Fire Department.

Dave Beers reported that the Rails To Trails is now one year old and now has a website at <norfolktrail.org> They are working on a video with Christopher Little.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

Respectfully submitted by Jim Nelson