



**TOWN OF NORFOLK
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
May 13, 2021, 5:00pm via Zoom
MINUTES**

Present: Libby Borden, Sue Frisch, Kate Johnson, Marie Lowe, Tom McGowan, Michael Selleck
Absent: Larry Hannafin, Jim Nelson
Guests: Matt Riiska, Ruth Melville, Dawn Whalen, Virginia Coleman-Prisco, Jenna Brown, Amy Bennett

Libby Borden called the meeting to order at 5:01

Libby had sent out corrected minutes for January-April and she asked to have all approved. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Bill Brown has resigned as co-chair and commission member of the EDC. We are sorry to see him go and he will leave a hole in many areas, including branding, the website and reporting on fiber optics. Libby has asked Michael Selleck if he will co-chair and he has agreed.

Libby said there are several qualified candidates to fill Jon and Bill's vacancies but she prefers to consult with commission members about the candidates one-on-one and not in a public forum.

The commission approved the expenditure of \$94 to the Norfolk Foundation for umbrella HUB membership for town hall organizations. A further motion was passed to pay for this membership yearly. Both were approved unanimously.

Kate said that the P&Z and Wetlands hearings for Haystack Woods have been postponed until June.

Libby said that there was enthusiasm for the idea of Friday nights on the Village Green.

Sue said that WIN was moving forward with live, outdoor activities being planned for WIN dates of July 30, 31 and August 1. The commission voted unanimously to grant WIN \$2,000 from its 2020-2021 budget.

Libby brought up the WIN solicitation letter which had been sent out by the EDC in previous years. Michael raised the point that new residents should be included in the list which prompted Libby to report that members of the Norfolk Land Trust outreach committee, spearheaded by Melissa Renkert, are holding a meeting at the HUB at 5:15 on May 20th to brainstorm about how to reach out to newcomers. The NVFD includes outreach in its strategic plan and has been invited to attend the meeting.

The existence of the CT Regional Tourism Districts has been brought to the attention of EDC members, Tom strongly suggests the EDC looks into it as a possibility for Norfolk. Michael agreed to pursue.

Marie reported on "branding and beautification" on behalf of the branding committee and the Community Association. Matt Bannerman volunteered to paint the entrance signs. West will help install night lights and Leslie Watkins has volunteered to design appropriate plantings for under the signs. Thank you all.

The website is transitioning: the town has just hired an assistant to be in charge of all town hall postings and Bill Brown has resigned as head of the website committee. Matt and Libby will talk later about the website going forward.

The Broadband committee continues to explore ways to bring fiber optics to Norfolk.

Tom reported that real estate inventory is still tight but four vacant lots have recently been sold.

The DOT continues to be hard to reach.

The guests were invited to speak. Jenna Brown said that she and friends were very excited about the idea of Friday nights on the Village Green and volunteered to help. Viirgina Coleman-Prisco said she would be delighted to be in Tom's Train to Canaan video and they will meet on Saturday.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40.

Libby Borden