



**TOWN OF NORFOLK  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
November 11, 2021, 5:00pm via Zoom  
MINUTES**

Present: Libby Borden, Jenna Brown, Sue Frisch, Larry Hannafin, Kate Johnson,  
Tom McGowan, Jon Riedeman, Michael Selleck  
Absent: Marie Lowe, Jim Nelson,  
Guests: Matt Riiska, Ruth Melville

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Libby Borden called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

The minutes of the October 14, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

Libby said that board members of the Norfolk Foundation recently went through an exercise of imagining what Norfolk should be like in five years and how NF could help to achieve it. She suggested that EDC members should do the same. How can the EDC help the town to achieve its goals? She also said that NF has budgeted over a three years period \$15K to be used with the EDC for branding, or any other project.

The Royal Arcanum Building has been purchased by the Norfolk Foundation and the Town has started work on the new Robertson Plaza design and staircases into City Meadow. Matt said that he thought the project would be finished by spring.

Kate said that the approval process for Haystack Woods is almost complete and anticipates the final approval will occur at the December 14 P&Z meeting. She said that FNL has received good response from the State about funding. She reported that the FNL has a master tenant lease with the Norfolk Foundation for the five bedrooms on the second floor of the Arcanum. These additional units are important for FNL's overall affordable housing numbers.

The Welcome Folders are almost complete. Michael anticipates they will be ready by Christmas. All Norfolk newcomers since 2019 will each get a copy and copies will be available with the realtors and at the HUB. Ann DeCerbo is helping with the design. Libby asked for help to assure that all organizations wanting and needing volunteers be included in the packet. Jon said he would work with the EMS. The deadline for information and flyers is December 1.

Sue reported that the software supporting the town website has been functioning poorly so Jim Jasper, funded by the Coalition for Sound Growth, will probably rebuild it. Sue said that responses to the website survey have been good but asked the EDC members to encourage their friends to take it.

Winter WIN will be held on February 26-27 and will be in compliance with all current COVID regulations. The WIN website has the same software as the Town website and is also faltering and eventually this will need to be addressed.

In Marie's absence Libby reported on her behalf that Francis Miller has completed the Battell Fountain, a beautiful work of art restoration. The Community Association will be getting ready for holiday trees and decorations.

In Jim's absence, Libby reported on his behalf that the Festival is continuing to plan for next summer. They are going live with their applications next Tuesday (11/16) and will be accepting applications for strings, piano, woodwinds and brass for the Chamber Music session. They are expecting to have their normal three sessions of New Music Workshop, the six-week Chamber Music program, and the Choral Conducting Workshop. They have also included their traditional Family Day on Sunday, August 7, which they hope coincides with Weekend In Norfolk.

Tom said that the real estate market remains tight but he has noticed a significant uptick in the purchase of land. Matt said that it has been very difficult filling the assessor's position for Norfolk and he suggested that a regional assessor that could work in several towns might be a solution.

Michael said that he has heard from several people that it would be nice to have a dog park in Norfolk. After some discussion about where to locate it, Michael suggested to Matt that the ball field area might be possible. Matt pointed out that the ball field is owned by the Stoeckel Estate and he needs to get Jack Beecher involved. Michael also said that a Pavilion would be a great addition. When Michael queried about the skating rink, Matt said that the beavers are causing a problem but Sean Muzzulin is doing a good job mowing despite the beaver damage.

Jenna said that she will begin planning for Friday Nights on the Village Green. She said she hoped to have more music, and Jon offered to give her a long list of musicians that he has collected during his tenure at Infinity Hall. Jenna would also like to have at least one evening with food trucks. Libby said that the Greve Foundaton has offered to support three Friday nights.

Jenna said that there were lots of activities at the school and that the Veterans Day ceremony will be streamed.

Michael wants to revive the Traffic Calming campaign and Larry said he is very willing to help. Both letter writing and petitions will be pursued.

Matt reported that the new Firehouse plans were moving forward with the architectural firm of Silver Petrucelli.

He also said that if Board of Finance agreed, he would use funds from the American Rescue Act to hire Creative Recreation to restore the slide at Botelle.

Matt will find out the date of the lighting of the Christmas Tree.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56.

Libby Borden and Michael Selleck

