



**TOWN OF NORFOLK
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
June 9, 2022, 5:00pm via Zoom
MINUTES**

Present: Libby Borden, Jenna Brown, Sue Frisch, Larry Hannafin, Kate Johnson, Marie Lowe, Tom McGowan, Jim Nelson, Jon Riedeman, Michael Selleck

Guests: Matt Riiska, Ruth Melville, Peter Lawrence

Libby Borden called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

The minutes of the May 12, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

Jenna Brown is resigning from the EDC. Libby thanked her for her service, particularly for the excellent job she is doing with Friday Nights on the Village Green. Michael said that the EDC is going to order a large banner to publicize Friday Nights.

Tom reported that the East/West train in Massachusetts is showing some interest but nothing is happening with the North/South line in either Connecticut or Massachusetts. The train item will be taken off the EDC agenda.

Tom continued that there was more Norfolk real estate activity including several building lots.

There is going to be a Zoom and in person fiber optics meeting on June 23rd at 10:00 a.m. sponsored by COG for all the Northwest Corner towns. Matt will send out the information. Matt said that at this time there really isn't a plan about how to bring fiber optics to the towns. There is no need for an EDC sub-committee at this time.

Kate reported that both the Foundation for Norfolk Living's collaboration with the Norfolk Foundation for affordable housing on the Arcanum's second floor and the Haystack Woods project are moving forward.

Matt has distributed some ARPA funds and earmarked others leaving approximately \$120K for businesses. The ARPA committee will decide on this distribution.

Matt suggested that a meet and greet of town business owners might be a good first step for the EDC to engage the businesses in town, with perhaps a speaker from another town.

Libby said that there were several items in the POCD that had EDC next to them. Kate suggested that Libby send this specific information to the commission members.

Michael has been using the traffic gun to gather information for the next request to the DOT to lower the speed limit by Botelle School.

The town of Norfolk will be taking over the town website as of July 1st and the Selectmen will appoint a town web site committee.

The solicitation letter sent out by the EDC in support of Weekend in Norfolk has so far yielded \$5,560 with contributions continuing to come in.

Plans are underway to coordinate tag sales around town from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 6 to coincide with Weekend in Norfolk.

Jim said that the NCMF is all set for this summer and remarked that the group of students was of remarkably high quality. NCMF has selected Robert Whipple to be the new general manager and Jim will continue as a consultant for another year. There will be opportunities to meet Robert Whipple during the summer.

The Community Association will be celebrating the completion of the fountain renovations this Sunday, June 12th.

Kate encouraged everyone to visit the Yale Norfolk School of Art Open House on June 26th to see the results of the "Home in a Vibrant Community" art student/community collaboration project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned a few minutes before 6:00.

Libby Borden and Michael Selleck, Co-chairs of the EDC