



**TOWN OF NORFOLK
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
March 10, 2022, 5:00pm via Zoom
MINUTES**

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

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

The minutes of the February 10, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

The April EDC meeting to be held on April 14th will be canceled.

The 2022-23 proposed budget was discussed. The commission agreed to include a line item of \$2,000 for WIN and reduce the Misc line to \$1,000.

Kate reported that the Foundation for Norfolk Living was moving forward with Haystack Woods as well as the Arcanum units.

Jenna reported on Friday Nights on the Village Green. All evenings have been booked. Maria Horn is attending the Pet Parade on June 17th which is also the evening that organizations are invited to present. Jenna suggested that both the Democratic and Republican town committees have booths to recruit voters. The Greve Foundation has generously given \$5,000 to support Friday nights. Jenna asked the EDC for an additional \$1,400, \$700 for Ann DeCerbo for design and \$700 for a band. The EDC unanimously approved the expenditure.

Libby said that Marie Civco has requested a letter from the EDC supporting a SHPO grant to help restore the steeple. The EDC voted unanimously to write a letter.

Michael reported on the American Rescue Plan Act for Norfolk. Four members of the EDC sit on the ARPA committee. Suggested disbursements must be approved by the Finance Committee. At this time monies have been allocated for a generator for the Sewer District as well as the slide at Botelle School. In conjunction with the EDC's effort to reach out to the business community, a small committee will compose a letter to the businesses to see if they qualify for ARPA monies.

Sue reported that the Norfolk website's new design is moving ahead well; she said Susan Caughman, a new committee member, has been tracking website usage which has been very helpful.

WIN was a success and the town looks forward to summer WIN August 5-7.

Marie reported on behalf of the Community Association that the town clean-up day is scheduled for April 23 and the dedication of the Battell Fountain will be held on June 12th. Marie asked for help in getting a food truck for that occasion.

Jim said that the exact plans for the summer music festival are still waiting Yale's approval, but he is hopeful that there will be live audiences this year. He said that because the students needed to be housed on campus, the number of students dropped from 38 to 28. However, he reported that construction on the Music Shed annex and renovation of Eldridge Barn were both moving forward.

Tom reported that the housing inventory was still very low. However, he said that the interest among legislatures for the train is increasing.

The question of the status of fiber optics was raised. Michael suggested that the EDC invite Maria Horn to an EDC meeting to discuss state fiber optics initiatives as well as other issues of interest.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58.

Libby Borden and Michael Selleck, Co-chairs EDC