



**TOWN OF NORFOLK
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
February 9, 2023, 5:00pm via Zoom
MINUTES**

Present: Libby Borden, Sue Frisch, Larry Hannafin, Kate Johnson, Tom McGowan, Brett Robbins, Michael Selleck, Robert Whipple
Absent: Marie Lowe, Jon Riedeman,
Guest: Susan Caughman, Ruth Melville

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

The minutes of the January 12, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

According to Matt, EDC's new member, Robert Whipple, can vote even though he is not a resident of Norfolk as the EDC commissioners are not elected, but appointed, by the town.

Libby introduced guest Susan Caughman, who has had a strong background in websites and is a member of the Town website committee. She gave a brief description of the website history and said that traffic has increased significantly during the past year. She asked the EDC for suggestions as to how to bring more traffic to the site. As an example of ways to be useful to the town, she said that the website will be including the backup papers for town future hearings, for example, the Dog Park hearing on February 14th.

Instead of approaching business leaders one by one, the commission suggested that the EDC invite all local businesses to a round table at the Hub to discuss business needs. Michael, Libby, Brett and Sue agreed to move the project forward.

Kate reported that road construction has begun for Haystack Woods.

Brett reported on fiber optics. Conversations with Frontier have continued to progress. We are working toward an official proposal, which will outline what homes will be passed by their construction and what homes will still be left without coverage. The latest proposal from Frontier is below \$500K. The expected impact on the town budget is ~\$45K over 15 years. Brett Robbins will continue to communicate with Matt Riiska and plans to join the town's conversations with Allison Ellis, Senior VP for Government and Regulatory Affairs at Frontier, moving forward.

Margarete Attanasio is working diligently to book music, food, and events for Friday Nights on the Village Green.

Michael and Larry will work on a letter to DOT to accompany the petitions signed by concerned citizens to slow traffic on Route 44 from Botelle through town. Larry hopes we get between 300-350 signatures.

Winter WIN is in less than two weeks away and Sue is encouraging everyone to go to the WIN website and make note of all the events scheduled.

In Marie's absence, Libby said that the dog park, sponsored by the Community Association, is moving forward and mentioned the public hearing on February 14th.

Tom said that there is no real estate flow at all—very few houses for sale and people looking for houses.

Robert reported that the programming for the Norfolk Summer Music Festival will be announced shortly, that construction on campus is proceeding on time, and that Jen at the Hub will welcome the students and give them a tour of the town.

Michael said that the directors for the summer art program, Bryan and Lisa, are hoping to do the Community Art Project again this summer.

Freedom to Form is the overall theme of their summer program

The art lecture series is lined up and drawing classes for residents will again be offered.

Matt will be holding a meeting on February 18th at 9:00 for those interested in being part of the Friends of City Meadow.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55.

Libby and Michael