



Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2020

Members Present: Whitney Friberg, Donna McGrath, Peter Walker, Katie Young

Also Present: Danielle Giardina

Meeting started at 6:39 pm

Minutes read and approved

Meeting began with discussion about those businesses that have inquired about sign sponsorship and who else has been contacted. The committee is in the process of creating a list to cross reference as each member meets with potential sponsors.

We spoke about Welcome to Rutland signs and their sponsorship. Peter expressed concerns about the cost for sponsoring our sign(s) and thinks they may be too expensive to find sponsors for. Whitney had emailed us the traffic counts which we will compare and discuss at our next meeting.

Whitney talked about the recent business tours. They visited Go Green Mfg and Edward Jones. Again, the business owners reported that they were pleased with how their businesses were coming along and felt supported by the community. Jahan Manasseh of Edward Jones had participated in our September, 2019 Meet & Greet. He expressed his appreciation of the EDC and the Meet & Greet, and inquired about how to meet residents as well as other business owners. Whitney suggested that our next Meet & Greet include Hubbardston residents. Jahan also was interested in doing workshops for our residents.

Whitney opened preliminary discussions on the EDC budget. The committee will continue these discussions at the next meeting.

Airbnb fees were discussed. Whitney explained some of Airbnb's taxes and community impact fees. Katie was not in favor of charging any fees to the homeowners and spoke to the committee about her thoughts on why we should avoid charging our residents any fees whenever possible. No motions made. Whitney asked the committee to visit the Airbnb website for more info on fees, liability coverage, etc. for the homeowners, before voting at our next meeting. VRBO is another site to compare to.

Montachusett Regional Planning Comission & Central MASS Grown have asked that we participate in their Travel by Tourism task this year which involves identifying major tourist attractions within the region. Our committee suggested Rietta Ranch and Barre Falls Dam.

Our discussion about Quabbin Country was postponed until a future meeting with more members attending.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02