

**Economic Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
DRAFT-April 17, 2018**

**Members or alternates present:** Kathy Eaton, Peter Cooke, Steve Durgan, Alan Harding, Denise Roy Palmer, Linda Murray, Vice Chair-Cindy Patten and Kathy Tetreault

**Members or alternates absent:** Dave Bowers, Craig Gemmell, Bill Petersen, Mary DeVries, Jim O'Connell

**Staff present:** Town Manager David Owen, Director of Planning and Development Matt Sullivan and Amelia Capone Muccio-Recording Secretary

**Guests:** John Simms

1. **Call to order:** Chair Eaton called the meeting to order at 8:07 AM and noted a quorum was present.

2. **Consideration of Minutes: 3/20/18**

**It was moved by Denise Roy Palmer and seconded by Alan Harding to approve the minutes of March 20, 2018 as amended. Members voted, Steve Durgan and Kathy Eaton abstained all others in favor, the motion passed.**

3. **New Business**

- a. **Lakes Region Model Railroad**

John Simms addressed the Committee to provide an update on the Lakes Region Model Railroad project. He summarized that in the process of plans to turn the old railroad building into a museum, they discovered some challenges with the original plan and have to adjust the plans to accommodate a temperature controlled environment that will be essentially built inside the original building. The proposed plan is accessible for preservation purposes and as they did last year they are seeking letters of support for their LCHIP grant application.

Chairman Eaton questioned if the museum will be year round and if they are just looking for the same letter of support they provided last time they applied for the grant.

Mr. Simms replied yes it will be open year round and yes they are looking for support for the grant same as last time.

Peter Cooke questioned fundraising efforts.

Mr. Simms replied they do have a fundraising plan and are hoping the grants are a significant part of their budget.

S Durgan questioned the Klickty Klack Railroad collection.

Mr. Simms replied that the technology used at Klicky Klack is 40 years old their plan to provide today's technology to the museum, but would be able to use some that collection's scenery.

S Durgan stated he is support of this project but is still unsure if this will work and has concerns if the museum should fail when taxpayer's funds are involved. He is not prepared to vote on this today.

A Harding stated he is favor the museum but also questioned if they need to vote today or could they visit the site first?

Mr. Simms explained that they are just looking for support of an application for \$20,000 study grant just like last time, they didn't receive that grant because the project didn't meet the standards they have since revised the plan and are applying again.

Chairman Eaton read the last letter to the Committee and noted that it could be used again as it just is confirming support of their project.

**It was moved by Denise Roy Palmer and seconded by Cindy Patten to direct the Chairman to send the same letter of support for the Lakes Region Model Railroad project as requested. Members voted, all in favor, the motion passed.**

#### **b. Announcement of New Town Manager**

Linda Murray stated the Board of Selectmen has hired Becky Merrow, the current Town Manager of Colebrook, to replace retiring Town Manager David Owen. She is an inactive Vermont Attorney, had a lot of experience in grant writing and other skill sets that will work great with our community. She is scheduled to start May 31<sup>st</sup>. He stated the retirement reception for Mr. Owen is May 30th from 4-6 PM at the Great Hall.

Chairman Eaton questioned if Ms. Merrow has EDC experience.

Mrs. Murray replied that she believes Ms. Merrow will work well with this committee.

#### **c. Master Plan Update**

Matt Sullivan stated the Master Plan committees have been meeting regularly and everything is going in a positive direction. He believes they will have draft chapters ready for September.

S Duran agreed the meetings are going well and Mr. Sullivan is doing a tremendous job keeping it all on track and feels all opinions are being heard and good discussions are happening.

A Harding agreed the meetings are going well and provided an email where he is looking for comments and input on strengths and weaknesses of the community.

### **4. Old Business**

#### **a. EDC Mission Statement**

M. Sullivan provided a proposed draft for the Committee to review, which includes a re-write suggested by Craig Gemmell.

The Committee reviewed and discussed proposed revisions noting that the last sentence in the first paragraph can be suggested and questioned whether or not to include it.

The Committee determined to strike “while balancing the town’s environment, character and culture” from the Mission Statement.

**It was moved by Kathy Eaton and seconded by Denise Roy Palmer to approve the Mission Statement as amended at this meeting Members voted, all in favor, the motion passed.**

## **5. Other Business**

Mr. Sullivan stated that the Planning Board will hold a short forum on what has transpired since the joint Planning Board and EDC meeting. They plan to adopt the 1995 guidelines as mandatory, but will have a waiver process. The idea of this is to have something in writing to follow.

## **6. Town Manager’s Report**

D Owen stated the following:

- EDC appointments will be acted upon by the Board of Selectmen tomorrow evening.
- The boat ramp project is nearing completion.
- The public bathrooms at dockside are postponed until this fall.
- The Center Street project is mobilizing this week.
- Foss Field Pavilion completion is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day.

Being no further business before the Committee, Chairman Eaton asked for a motion to adjourn.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 AM.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Amelia Capone Muccio