

Minutes
Economic & Community Development Committee– Virtual
Wednesday, February 24, 2021
4:00 PM

Haley called the meeting to order and declare a quorum.

Introduction of the Committee Members present: Laura Deschambeault, Scot Montgomery, Erin Mayo, Tom Rebmann, Kelisha Ryan.

Haley went over meeting procedures, budget requests, grant processes, meeting schedules. Haley went over FOA process and postings of meeting. Haley explained she is going to ask the Budget Committee for \$1,000.00 as seed money as the committee did not have time prior to budget process to create a budget. Committee agreed with Haley. Haley encouraged the committee to seek out grants, and explained they will require Haley's approval and signature. Haley asked to look at a set meeting schedule. It was decided to meet the last Wednesday of the month at 4:00 pm.

Haley discussed electing of officers and their roles. It was decided electing of officers will take place at the next meeting.

Mission statement needed for Committee. Haley drafted a mission statement that was presented to the Select Board. She relayed that it does not have to be set in stone.

To develop and implement creative community-based strategies to enhance economic opportunity, build a strong village, and ensure the sound, long-term well-being of the town and its citizens.

Committee agrees mission statement looks good. They really like the community-based strategies.

Haley drafted goals and tasks. Haley asked for input. Haley will send out the Downtown revitalization plan to members for the next meeting.

Short-term goals will include the implementation of RERC actions such as branding, coordination of business events, business development. The economic development committee will explore funding avenues to implement specific actions in collaboration with the Town Manager and Select Board. The committee may work with the Maine Downtown Center.

Montgomery said it would be good to keep the public involved and the get word out about the Committee so the public is well informed. Haley stated the Town would do its best to keep it on Facebook Page and Town Website and Ryan will help get the word out. Ryan mention putting it in the Dragonfly paper and Town Matters newsletter.

Haley said it would be great for all of the new committees to meet once a quarter to see what they are all doing and how they can work with one another. Haley spoke about getting a brand for the town. Abby King and Charles Buterbaugh have been working together to work on this. Haley will ask Buterbaugh if he can give an overview on their project at the next meeting.

Haley stated the deal with Avesta is scheduled to close the first week of April. The Broadband Committee has been working on efforts to find ways to improve our broadband situation.

Ryan spoke about the importance of the historic value of Fryeburg and incorporate that. Fryeburg is the oldest town in Oxford County and we have a huge wealth of history here.

Haley thanked everyone for joining the Committee and adjourned at 4:31 pm.