**Town of Fryeburg-- Community and Economic Development Committee**

**Minutes for July 7th, 2021 meeting**

**Meeting held at the American Legion Hall**

Called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Thom Rebman, with quorum declared

Members present:

Thom Rebman, Chair

Kelisha Ryan

Erin Mayo

Absent:

Katie Haley

Chiya Harper

This being an additional meeting between scheduled monthly meetings of the committee, there were no previous meeting minutes to vote to accept.

Tom Rebman indicated that there need to be minutes generated for any meeting of the committee, not just the standing monthly meetings. Erin Mayo agreed to take the minutes for this meeting.

Discussion began with agreement that the RERC plan is what gives shape to our committee work, with a de facto focus on Fryeburg’s downtown. Thom Rebman and Keli Ryan summarized the content of the meeting that they had in late June, which centered on the possibility of adding benches in a variety of areas downtown, to be made possible by underwriters: businesses, individuals, organizations. Thom Rebman suggested that bike racks could also be a consideration.

The group also discussed the value of guidance from the Maine Downtown Foundation-- for example, in seeking parameters for such things as the bench initiative. Keli Ryan indicated that Chiya Harper wanted her approval of both ideas reflected to those present.

Thom Rebman stated that the committee should formally advance recommendations regarding both the benches and formalizing a connection with the Maine Downtown Foundation. The votes that resulted were as follows:

*MOVED (Thom Rebman): “That the Fryeburg Economic & Community Development Committee recommend to the Town Manager retaining the Maine Downtown Foundation to aid it in framing objectives, identifying resources, and action planning.”*

*Keli Ryan seconded the motion.*

*PASSED, unanimously.*

*MOVED (Thom Rebman): “That the Fryeburg Economic & Community Development Committee move forward with a community bench project.”*

*Keli Ryan seconded the motion.*

*PASSED, unanimously.*

Further discussion concerned feedback received thus far from a survey of Fryeburg business owners. The group also shared its own observations, including the following:

\*Fryeburg Academy is an asset

\*the town’s brand identity should focus on cultural assets, recreation, and history

\*think about draws like getting on an antiques circuit; recreational services and events (e.g., film festivals)

\*Norway and Cornish have done interesting revamps and could be helpful to study

\*it’s necessary to lay the groundwork for an effluent system in the village

\*the town needs a visitor-facing website -- to promote travel to Fryeburg with appealing, comprehensive information about its attractions. Erin Mayo suggested that this could be a good project for FA students proficient in web design.

\*worth considering creating an annual event like a food truck festival or Winter Carnival--Keli Ryan described possible elements like a ‘SouperBowl’

Keli Ryan stated that Ann Ball should be invited to attend, via Zoom if necessary, the next scheduled committee meeting on 7/22, which will be held in-person at the American Legion Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Erin Mayo.