

EDC Meeting 11/21/19

Present: Ken Matthews, Laura Buono, Doug Hatfield, Bob Nash, Robyn Payson, Dana Brien, JP Stohrer, Adam Charrette

Meeting opened at 9:10am.

Mr. Stohrer expressed appreciation to Mr. Nash for coming and representing the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Stohrer would like to keep the update sections to 10 minutes each.

Planner's Update:

Ms. Payson recapped the Charrette meeting, reported that the focus now on pathway to Kemp Park. The Conservation Commission is meeting tonight (11/21/2019) to discuss a "Life Forest." This is the first of its kind. DES is very supportive. The land is on Beard Brook Road.

Ms. Payson stated that she is looking at a TIF for the senior living facility at the Weatherstone Crossing development.

The EDC Budget was discussed at a recent budget meeting with the Board of Selectmen. The currently proposed budget is at \$500.00, down from \$1500.00 in 2019.

Mr. Hatfield asked Ms. Payson to ask the Conservation Commission to address the River Walk and improvements to it, in conjunction with the Kemp Park Committee. Signage is a key next step.

Administrator's Update:

Ms. Buono reported that the Tax-Deed Auction is on this coming Saturday (11/23/2019). Everyone is excited to get these properties on the tax rolls again.

2020 Budget process is underway: The Board of Selectmen are looking to decrease it again.

Mission Statement discussion:

Mr. Stohrer stated he wants to go through the whole website piece by piece. Ms. Payson added that the DECA students have an interest in assisting us with the updating. Current Mission Statement may be fine, but it should be discussed and addressed. Discussion of the purpose and roll of the Hillsborough EDC followed. We need to storyboard a "Why Hillsborough?" video for the website as well. Mr. Hatfield referenced the Franklin Pierce Video at the Historical Society and suggested it as a source for material.

Chamber Report:

Mr. Nash reported that the Chamber office is opening on December 5th during the Old Fashioned Christmas event, at the old emporium location. A new Board of Directors was elected at the last meeting and the board has decided to absorb Hillsborough PRIDE as a standing committee of the Chamber, with

the intent of helping out with tasks of Pride. The new "Welcome to Hillsborough" signs are complete, but won't be put up until spring due to ground freeze. This is the first project for the new COC, looking for options for second project, interested in helping with the signage for the River Walk. Mr. Nash stated the COC is looking to renew the artisan presence in town with an Artist of the Month window display, beginning with Stella Arvenataki.

Mr. Matthews reported that the corn stalks are coming down on the Sunday after Thanksgiving to get ready for Old Fashioned Christmas. Hillsborough Reborn is working with the Historical Society to give pictures to businesses to display.

Ms. Payson asked Mr. Nash if there was a plan to adopt more community action groups into the Chamber? Mr. Nash responded that the activities of PRIDE seemed to complement the purpose of the Chamber. He stated that he expects the COC to solidify by mid 2020.

Mr. Stohrer made a motion to approve the minutes of 9/26/19 and 10/24/19. Mr. Hatfield seconded. Motion Passed.

Mr. Stohrer asked that the committee send options to him of verbiage they would like to see in the mission statement and he will create options to discuss. Mr. Stohrer's email is JPstohrer@gmail.com.

Ms. Payson discussed asking for an AxisGIS program for the whole town. She stated it gives us ability to make our own maps to promote town amenities, and will be useful to every department and committee. Story-mapping is a possibility too. First year \$7000, each subsequent year is \$1500.

Mr. Hatfield reported being asked about the Walmart development. He suggested that the town should make a statement regarding the project, whether it is or isn't happening. This may encourage other developers to look into the space that has been invested in.

Mr. Nash left the meeting at 9:59am.

Mr. Charrette brought up the "Dark Sky" community project. He advocated protecting our access to the night sky. Hillsborough would be the only Dark Sky community east of Indiana. Even if only a park, it would be the only park in NH. This project could include converting to LED bulbs on all street lights, using red lights also allow for better sky viewing.

Mr. Stohrer made a motion to adjourn at 10:08am. Mr. Hatfield seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Brien

