

EDC Meeting 12/19/19

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

Meeting opened at 9:03 am.

Mr. Stohrer opened the meeting.

Town Administrator Update

Laura told the commission that the budget process is ongoing. She said the departments are up by a modest amount and revenues may offset that somewhat.

Doug Hatfield asked Laura if the Board of Selectmen have made any decisions regarding Kemp Park. Laura said there were no decisions made yet but they board would continue to talk about it. Doug asked if the selectmen would be open to a warrant article to use \$80,000.00 from the Dana Crane Fund for improvements to Kemp Park which would include the restoration of the cider press. Kemp Park has been recognized as an economic development asset and a tourist destination. Kemp Park also abuts the Conservation Commission's river walk. Doug said if there were funds coming for the Dana Crane fund, there would be no taxpayer impact. The Dana Crane fund is intended for improving town assets.

Laura said the Selectmen would be open to discussing any proposals.

Planner's Update:

Robyn said that the Zoning Articles are all complete and the Public Hearing is scheduled for January 8th 7:00 pm at the Town Office. To be considered are warrant articles pertaining to the Historic District, some changes to definitions and a property maintenance ordinance for the Central Business/Commercial Zone. The property maintenance ordinance came out of a common complaint about the condition of the buildings and property in those districts. Having a "dingy" down town was also one of the top complaints at the Plan NH Charrette.

Chamber of Commerce

Bob Nash reported that the Chamber of Commerce is completing their move into the right unit of the Central Street Emporium (next to Roasted Root Café). The plan is for the Chamber office to be open two half days a week initially.

Artists are hanging their work on the walls and some pieces have already been sold. During office hours the doors between the Chamber office and Roasted Root will be open and people will be encouraged to

look (and purchase) the art. Bob estimated that in three months the office will be open five half days per week.

Bob discussed the Chamber's efforts to develop a "Welcome Center". Doug Hatfield suggested that the Chamber contact Jayme Someas in Concord. He is a public relations professional who used to live in Hillsborough.

Bob asked Robyn if the town had any regulations on short term rentals like Airbnb. She told him that there weren't any right now and since there were no problems it didn't seem necessary to regulate them. Doug Hatfield said that they are now subject to Rooms and Meals taxes.

Hillsborough Reborn

Ken Matthews reported that Christmas wreaths were put up in the center. They are not able to move forward with clearing out the hill on Depot Street until spring.

Dark Skies

Adam Charrette reported that he had met Dr. Fisher at his viewing station on Stowe Mountain Road. Since the town is working on replacing current lighting in town to LED's he suggested approaching Sylvania.

Mission Statement

The commission members reviewed the language for the mission statement submitted by Bob Nash and Laura Buono. Following discussion and development of the new Mission Statement Doug Hatfield made a motion to approve it. Robyn Payson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Hillsborough Economic Development Commission is to work to provide all residents with an enhanced quality of life achieved by promoting the sustainability of existing businesses and encouraging new employment opportunities which will diversify the tax base and provide for a welcoming and vibrant community.

Mr. Stohrer made a motion to adjourn at 09:50 am. Mr. Hatfield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn Payson,
Planning Director