

Town of Farmington
Economic Development Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Committee Members Present:

Resta Detwiler, Chairman
Denise Roy-Palmer, Vice Chairman
Elaine Aylard, Secretary
Martin Laferte, Planning Board Rep.
Ann Titus, Selectmen's Rep.
Randy Orvis (6:10 p.m.)

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Detwiler called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Introduction of New Members: None present.

4). Public Comment: None.

5). Review of Minutes:

April 12, 2016 – Chairman Detwiler said she hadn't had a chance to read the minutes and suggested they be tabled. Ms. Titus suggested the committee read them at this time. Chairman Detwiler then said there was something in the minutes not written as the way she remembered it happening. She did not elaborate on her concern and said she wanted an opportunity to view the recording of the meeting before making any further comments. She again suggested the minutes be tabled. Ms. Titus said the decision should be made by a vote of the members.

Motion: (Titus,) to accept the minutes of April 12. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Motion: (Detwiler, second Laferte) to table the minutes until the next meeting passed 5-1.

Mr. Laferte asked if the Chairman Detwiler received reimbursement of the \$40 she paid on behalf of the committee for membership in the NH Economic Development Association. Ms. Detwiler said she had received repayment of the membership dues.

6). New Business:

A). Correspondence- Chairman Detwiler reported receipt of a letter from Joanne Doke on behalf of the Women's Club to thank the EDC for the \$200 contribution to the fund established for the replacement of the "Welcome to Farmington" signs.

B). Ribbon Cutting- Chairman Detwiler passed around photos of the recent ribbon cutting ceremonies held for new businesses in town- The Antique Depot, Studio 393 and Sylvia's Trading that will be submitted for publication in the Puddle Dock Press and the Rochester Times she said.

C). Monthly Newsletter- Chairman Detwiler presented the first edition of the "Farmington Economic

Development Commission News and Information” to the members for review. The newsletter contained a brief description of new businesses in town, the featured Business of the Month, how to get listed in the Business Directory on the Town website, contact information/links to SCORE, WEDCO and state/county/regional organizations. Ms. Detwiler said she planned to feature the Farmington House of Pizza and Subway as the Businesses of the Month for next month.

Motion: (Aylard, second Titus) to approve the newsletter as written passed unanimously.

Additional discussion included featuring businesses that have job openings, include the number of employees the featured businesses have, distribute copies to the Puddle Dock Press, by e-mail, on-line and in the Town Office Building, consider publishing editions every two months, consider a name change, include the Planning Board and add the date of the next EDC meeting.

C). Strategy Workshop- Ms. Roy-Palmer began the brain-storming session with a review of the EDC By-Laws. Discussion included goals and objectives of the committee, promote home businesses by including them in the town website Business Directory, be familiar with the town Zoning Ordinances and suggest changes to the ordinances to make it easier for home businesses, add to the policy that the EDC will work with the Planning Board, plan a minimum of two joint EDC/Planning Board workshops a year, quality residential development is also needed to keep/attract the available workforce, encourage natural gas company to come to town, invite a natural gas company rep. to speak to the EDC, conduct a survey to find out the needs of businesses, contact bigger businesses yearly and ask them to consider coming to Farmington, the need for more medical facilities, sale of the fire station lots, potential expansion by Cumberland Farms and Rite Aid and to reserve space to provide sufficient parking in the downtown area. Ms. Roy-Palmer then suggested the committee develop an outline of these suggestions and revisit the matter at the next meeting.

7). Any Other Business: None.

8). Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 6 p.m.

9). Adjournment:

Motion: (Aylard, second Detwiler) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 7:10 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary