

Town of Farmington  
Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 9, 2019

**Committee Members Present:**

Angela Hardin, Chairman  
Denise Roy-Palmer, Vice Chairman  
Sharon McKenney, Secretary  
Stephen Henry, Planning Board Rep.  
Randy Orvis  
Chad York

**Committee Members Absent:**

Dave Connolly, Selectmen's Rep., excused  
Breanne Varney, Excused

**1). Call to Order:**

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

**2). Pledge of Allegiance:**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3). Public Comment:** None

**4). Review of Minutes:**

June 11, 2019 – No errors or omissions

**Motion:** (Henry, Roy-Palmer) to accept the minutes as written passed 5-0-1 (Orvis abstained).

**5). BOS Report:**

The Selectmen's report was tabled as Mr. Connolly was absent from the meeting.

**6). Planning Board Report:**

Mr. Henry said the Planning Board did not meet the previous week (due to the Independence Day holiday). He said that in June 3 businesses came before the board with one seeking to move from one location to another location in town.

He said the second applicant is planning to store paving equipment on a parcel in the Sarah Greenfield Business Park. Due to the close proximity to water the board asked the owner to supply more information about the protection of the water source he said.

Mrs. Hardin asked if he intends to put a building on the lot.

Mr. Henry said there was a building in the plans and that he also plans to have cold storage and outdoor parking there as well.

He said the owner of a construction company was before the board seeking to construct a multi-use building with a garage under the residence on Pound Road.

Mrs. Hardin asked if this is a new business in town or one that was relocating from in town.

Mr. Henry said it would be an expansion of his business but he did not recall if he was moving

into town or relocating from another property in town.

Discussion then included the actual location of the applicant's property on the Pound Road in relation to the lots owned by the NH Custodial Trust and the Town of Farmington.

**7). TIF District:**

Mrs. Roy-Palmer said she did not have an update at this time and that she planned to schedule a meeting in Sept. as it is difficult to get everyone together during the summer.

Mrs. Hardin asked if the committee membership is full.

Mrs. Roy-Palmer said she believes it is a full committee but she was not sure.

**8). Old Business:**

**a). Adopt-a-Spot Program –** Mrs. Hardin said she is scheduled to meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the program on July 22. She said she drafted a Purpose Statement as suggested by the members at the previous meeting and then read it aloud as follows:

"The purpose of the Adopt-a-Spot Program is to enhance the natural beauty of various locations within the town while allowing local members of the community to participate and express their creativity. Properly maintained and aesthetically pleasing spots will positively affect the town's image to both its residents and potential businesses and homeowners. The program will be administered by the Farmington Economic Development Committee with the goal of enhancing areas within the town in order to promote a highly engaged community."

Mrs. Hardin then asked the members for their thoughts on the purpose statement.

Mr. Orvis said that on the previous day he attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting and told them that the brush needed to be trimmed back at the intersection of Paulson Road and Main Street as it is blocking the view of on-coming traffic on Main Street. He said there was some discussion about Main Street being a state road and the Town's ability to do maintenance on a state road. He suggested that it may be a good location for an Adopt-a-Spot.

Mrs. Hardin said it may be a good spot but that the Selectmen are correct that it is state/private property.

Mr. York said he believes the brush is growing through a chain link fence there.

Mr. Orvis said he was thinking that maybe they could save the Town some money by having someone adopt an intersection and keep it trimmed back and more attractive.

Mrs. Hardin said safety is an important aspect as well and that the committee could look into his suggestion once the program gets off the ground. She said they would also need to look into how they would work with the state and private property owners.

Consensus of the committee was to accept the purpose statement as presented.

Mrs. Hardin said she would add the statement to the application and the guidelines and that she added the Town seal to the documents.

She then asked the members to mark their calendars for the July 22 Selectmen's meeting and plan to attend if they are available to show support for the program.

Mrs. Roy-Palmer said she will be on vacation then and will be unable to attend the meeting.

**b). NH Economic Development Association Meeting –** Mrs. Roy-Palmer said it was a great meeting and that she has a copy of the Power Point presentations and once it is posted on the website she will send a link to it to Chairman Hardin for distribution to the members. She said Newmarket is a small community of approx. 10,000 people and is not much bigger than Farmington. They have done some amazing things there through public/private partnerships and it was a great presentation she said.

Mrs. Hardin asked if she obtained any contact information for anyone in Newmarket.

Mrs. Roy-Palmer said the meeting agenda will be on the website and that she would see what other contact information she has and can post there.

Mrs. Hardin asked if their governmental structure was similar to Farmington with a Board of Selectmen or if they have a City Council.

Mrs. Roy-Palmer said she thought they have a Board of Selectmen. She suggested that they may be able to get someone who has worked on their town revitalization as a guest speaker at a future committee meeting.

Mr. Orvis said it wasn't that long ago that Newmarket was smaller than Farmington but that their recent growth is due to being closer to the Massachusetts line and there are a lot more residential subdivisions there now. They are different from us in that they have a lot of old brick mill buildings to rehab he said.

Mrs. Hardin said the parking was difficult there but that they seemed to make it work.

Mrs. Roy-Palmer said they took the empty masonry buildings and turned them into apartments. She said the next NHEDA meeting will be in the fall and that she would update the committee on the date, location and agenda for the meeting when the information becomes available.

**ATV Trails Update-** Mr. Orvis said that a very important landowner, Johnson's Restaurant in New Durham has agreed to allow riders to load, unload and access the trail from their property and be the northern anchor for that end of the trail.

He said they met with the New Durham Board of Selectmen that morning and they will return to the board with their proposal for the trail routes in New Durham and Farmington. He said he told the Selectmen that his impetus for being involved in this is for the economic development it would bring to the area and to look at what has happened in the North Country with the development of the trails in that area.

Mr. Orvis said his next tasks are to create a sketch of the proposed trail corridors, gather the landowner permission slips together and to determine how to get around some physical obstacles such as conservation easements that don't allow motorized wheeled vehicles and property owners who won't allow them to cross their properties.

Mrs. Hardin asked if he found a contact person for the land trust where ACM (aka the Metal Farm) is located.

Mr. Orvis said one of the Trustees is listed on the tax card for the property and is the person he

planned to contact.

He said a few weeks ago that he and another club member rode along the proposed trail to check out the Class VI roads in New Durham for possible use as part of the trail system and that potentially the trail could be opened as early as next year. As we come down through Farmington we want to include some off shoot trails that would bring people into the South Main Street, downtown and Route 11 areas which may involve getting permission from the Town to run on short sections of Class V roads he said.

Mr. Orvis said they have spoken with Charlie King about coming through his property and would like to get a trail through the gravel pit, across the river and into Rochester until the state Trails Bureau gets the Farmington/Rochester railroad beds reopened to wheeled vehicles.

Mrs. Hardin asked what types of vehicles are currently allowed on the railroad bed.

Mr. Orvis said bicycles and horses are allowed in the summer but motorized wheeled vehicles are not allowed. He added they are not looking to make the trails for use by Jeeps. Their goal is to eventually connect with the New Durham Valley Trails on this side of New Durham he said. He said the town may also get a button to allow the snow mobiles to cross Route 11 in the PIP Rental area similar to a pedestrian sidewalk button that stops traffic to allow them to cross at busy intersections. This is something the state is starting to do where there are major trails crossing state highways he said.

Mr. Henry asked if there are requirements for a club to get money from the state for the trails.

Mr. Orvis said the club has to be a registered non-profit organization and that is why he decided not to start their own club as they didn't want to go through all of the paperwork and expense involved in registering with the state and accepted the offer from Tri-City ATV Club to join their club.

He said when you register a vehicle it costs almost \$100 and if you are a member of a club (membership is \$30) you get a \$30 coupon so the registration is reduced to about \$60 so basically you get your club membership for free. The grant money that a club gets for trails is based on the number of miles of trails the club has not on the number of members he said.

Mr. Orvis said the ATV club will have a booth at Hay Day this year with literature and 2 ATV's on display.

## **9). New Business:**

**a). Hay Day-** Mrs. Hardin said that last year the EDC had a booth at Hay Day primarily for the purpose of showcasing the conceptual drawings for the former fire station property.

Mrs. Roy-Palmer asked for the date on which the event will be held this year.

Mrs. Hardin said Hay Day will be held on Saturday, August 17. She asked if the committee would like to have a booth again this year. She said if so question #2 would be what they want to have at the booth.

Mrs. Roy-Palmer said if the meeting with the Selectmen on July 22 goes well they could have information about the Adopt-a-Spot program at the booth.

Mr. Henry suggested they display a map of the current spots and suggestions for future spots. Mrs. Hardin asked for other ideas for conversation starters and to attract people to come over and talk with the committee.

She said the Planning Board is working on the Master Plan revision and there is a questionnaire being developed by Arnett Development Group which they will be looking to get into as many hands as possible to get feedback for the plan. They could have the questionnaires available to fill out on the spot or for people to take home and complete she said.

Mrs. Roy-Palmer said it may be worthwhile to have forms available for Farmington business owners to supply their contact information (website, e-mail address, physical address, mailing address, contact info) so they can make sure that the business directory listings are correct.

Mrs. Hardin said that could be as simple as “Drop your business card in this bucket”.

Mr. Orvis said they could do some type of handout that would promote Farmington businesses such as a sheet of paper that says “Support these Farmington Businesses” set up so it could be torn up into coupons to be used at those businesses.

Mrs. Hardin said the idea was “brilliant” but that the event is only 1 month away and there is only so much preparation time. She said they could supply index cards for the business owners to fill out with their contact information and support the businesses by making sure that up to date information is displayed on the website.

Mr. Orvis said that a lot of the value of being at Hay Day is talking to people and listening to what they are looking for to support their business and to what the residents are looking for in support industries.

Mrs. McKenney said they should let people know what the committee does because some people think they have more power than what they actually have. They don’t understand what we do and if we are out there they could get to understand what we do she said.

Mrs. Hardin said it would be good exposure for the EDC.

Discussion then included placement of the booths and the members’ availability to staff the booth. Mrs. Hardin said they would work out the scheduling details at the next meeting.

She then asked for a motion to approve the expenditure for a booth space.

**Motion:** (Orvis, second Roy-Palmer) to approve spending \$30 for a Hay Day booth space;

**Discussion:** Mr. Henry clarified that this is just a line item entry shuffle in the Town budget.

Mr. York noted that this was the only expenditure from the EDC budget from the \$100 available last year.

Mrs. Hardin said there was \$200 available and she only used \$30 for a booth space. She said if there are budget items they can speak to for the coming year she will go and ask for more money but so far they haven’t spent anything.

Mr. Henry said they are going to need Adopt-a-Spot signs and this is \$30 that can’t go toward those signs.

Mrs. Hardin said if she has that data to back her up for next year (she can ask for more money)

and there are some signs that are pretty much ready to go.

Mr. Orvis said he spent \$30 per space for the 2 spaces he reserved.

Mr. Henry said that was his own money going to the Rec. Dept. not Town money going to a

Town dept. He said he would put up more of a “stink” about it if it wasn’t just a month away.

Mrs. Hardin said he was heard and that he could vote against the motion if he wished to do so.

Mr. Henry said this wasn’t the place to put up the stink but to prepare for the stink at a different meeting.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hardin said she would speak with the Town Administrator about their ideas for what they plan to do at the booth so as not to raise any “hairy eyeballs”.

**10). Any Other Business that may come before the Committee:** None

**11). Next Meeting:** Tuesday, August 13, 2019

**12). Adjournment:**

**Motion:** (Henry, second Orvis) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 7:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

---

Angela Hardin, Chairman