

Town of Farmington
Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 7, 2023
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

Committee Members Present: Danielle Harris-Chairman, Penny Morin-Selectmen's Rep, Adam Giles, Taylor Crawford- Vice Chairman, Dan Woodman

Committee Members Absent: KJ Cardinal, Lynn Fuller, Stephen Henry-Planning Board Rep, excused

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Harris 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:

January 10, 2023-Public Meeting Minutes- No errors or omissions

Motion: (Giles, second Crawford) to approve the minutes as written passed 4-0-1 (Morin abstained).

5). Business Responses to Directory:

Mrs. Harris said the welcome letter went out to all of the businesses in town and so far there is a 10% response rate.

Mr. Giles and Mr. Woodman said they did not receive anything.

Mr. Crawford asked how they were sent.

Mrs. Harris said they were sent via e-mail.

Mr. Crawford asked if it was sent by mass Blind Carbon Copy (used when sending e-mails to large number of people and addresses in the BCC field are invisible to the recipients).

Mrs. Harris said yes.

Mr. Crawford said a lot of e-mails will put that straight to spam.

Mrs. Harris said that may be what happened with Mr. Giles and Mr. Woodman and they could try another one. She said they only did one e-mail a couple of weeks ago and she gave folks a deadline of Feb. 5 for the first batch.

Mr. Giles asked who the e-mail would have been from.

Mrs. Harris said it would have been from the Farmington EDC.

Mr. Giles said the only e-mail he received was related to this meeting.

Mrs. Harris said this is good to know and they are probably hitting a lot of folk's spam.

Mrs. Morin said she did get the e-mail containing the welcome letter.

Mrs. Harris said they're starting to have people fill out the form and about half of them added their social media too. She said the next steps could be to post it on their Face book page and to try e-mailing it again and asked if the members had any other ideas for next steps.

Mrs. Morin suggested she share it with the Admin. Asst. and she could put it on the Town website's list serve which would come out through the Town's e-mail.

Mr. Giles asked how much it would cost to send out paper letters.

Mrs. Morin said it would cost 60 cents a letter.

Mr. Giles said he was bad with technology and he has some else deal with it for his company.

Mr. Woodman said he can build anything but he tells people not to text him because he can't do it.

Mr. Giles said it's not just him and if he sees a letter from the Town it might be a tax bill or something so you open it and if you're a business owner you're going to open it. He said not everybody is technology savvy but he was not sure about the cost to send them out on paper.

Mrs. Morin said they would need to get a list of how many businesses there are. She said they could do a bulk mailing but she didn't know if you can do bulk mailings in the same town or how that works.

Mrs. Harris said they have about 280 now and asked if they should keep trying to whittle down the list and then send a letter to whoever is left over. She then said they could try one more time by using the Admin. Asst's e-mail and maybe that would get through.

Mr. Giles said if it is a one direct business it's easier to get to that person but if it's a business like 3 Phase Line Construction they have 20 people in their office and he wondered who actually receives that e-mail.

Mrs. Morin said she would assume it would be the office manager.

Mrs. Harris said the e-mails they have come from the NH Secretary of State's Office and a lot of them are "info at e-mail" addresses so it's not necessarily directly to the owner.

Mr. Giles asked if there is funding remaining from last year in the EDC budget.

Mrs. Morin said she thinks there is \$600 in that line.

Mr. Giles said the new (budget) year hasn't started and asked if they could use that money.

Mrs. Morin said the new year has started but the budget hasn't been approved yet. She said the budget ends in Dec. and right now this committee doesn't have any funds because the new budget hasn't been approved and that \$600 was part of last year's budget and they would have had to use that in Dec.

Mrs. Harris said she thinks they whittled down some of that amount for the newsletter printing. She said the Finance Admin said the Town Administrator has done what he has to do from his side to push through the budget so the next step is to have it approved at Town Meeting.

Mrs. Morin said they could find it in the budget somewhere to do a mailer.

Mr. Woodman said Mrs. Harris said only so many people have responded and used the 500 Club

as an example of when he retired the new president was an IT guy and nobody was paying their sponsorships and when he was president he would visit them in person and the minute they saw him they were reminded it was time to pay their sponsorships or donations. Face-to-face or a nice letter not an e-mail that goes through a secretary somewhere to a business and then it's forgotten about he said.

Mrs. Morin suggested if they have an event to invite them to it where they can come and meet the committee and they could put the information in for them.

Mr. Crawford said Town Meeting might be an opportunity to capture some of that and suggested having a table there with a sign saying "Hey, Business Owners of Farmington!"

Mr. Woodman said when he gets a letter from the library it comes directly to him so he sees it but he just deletes a lot of his e-mail.

Mrs. Morin said she could take it back to the Selectmen and see if they can get what they think it is going to cost them.

Mr. Giles said everybody has to come in to register their vehicles in this town if you're a business and asked if they could make it so there is an automatic red flag that asks if they are registered with the Town.

Mr. Woodman suggested that they receive a letter or flyer when registering their vehicles. He said he grabs all the flyers, reports, etc. in the lobby when he comes in to pay his taxes or register his vehicle and he used to get the Puddledock Press here when it was available in print.

Mr. Giles asked about the cost to mail out letters and that they probably could remove the people that have responded from the list.

Mrs. Harris said the 280 number is with the responders removed.

Mrs. Morin said if the business is located in-town they could drop it off and do a face-to-face meeting with the owner.

Mr. Giles said he didn't mind spending a little bit of time doing that.

Mrs. Morin said for 250 mail pieces the cost is \$150.

Mr. Giles and Mr. Woodman said they could donate some money for that.

Mrs. Harris said by the time they get this through it would be March and they could do it through their budget. She said since they got the list from the state they have a list of all the businesses and their contact information and asked if they could use that information on their website or if they have to have their approval first.

Mrs. Morin said she didn't think so and that it is already on the Secretary of State's website so it's not like it's not directory information.

Mrs. Harris said if they really want to streamline it they have the information and it should all be approved and they could just put it on the website. She said the only thing that is missing is their social media sites and as they get that they can add it.

Mr. Crawford asked if that data is public and they could go to the Secretary of State's website and see it there.

Mrs. Harris said its public information and she wondered if part of this process was redundant. She said they could try to reach out to everyone one more time to let them know but they do have the information.

Mr. Giles asked why businesses have to register with the Town and if there was something the Town needs that for beyond this committee.

Mrs. Harris said they reached out to Planning Director Kyle Pimental who works for the Strafford Regional Planning Commission and they have a form that has to be filled out so they added to the letter that weren't in any trouble but if they haven't registered this is the form they would send to Kyle.

Mrs. Morin asked Mr. Giles if he was asking what the benefit is to registering with the Town.

Mr. Giles asked if they enter in the businesses' information for them and they didn't do it formally if it still counts or should they make them do it themselves.

Mrs. Morin said it should still count because it's on the state list.

Mr. Crawford asked what information is requested on the form from the Town and if there is anything they have to agree to when signing up.

Mrs. Harris said it is 2 different things and that originally they were reaching out for the business directory on the Town website and it came up that while reaching out to them they should make sure they are registered with the Town and they wanted to clarify that the business directory is separate from the state and Town registrations.

Mrs. Morin said they are not registering them with the Town they are just trying to get them on the directory. She said they would have to fill out that form themselves because they would need business information and status for identification numbers, etc.

Mr. Woodman said he knows $\frac{3}{4}$ of the business owners and asked if they could make up a flyer with what they're looking for that he could hand to them to get the ball rolling.

Mrs. Harris said they could print the welcome letter and SRPC business form and that's 3 pages.

Mr. Giles said he would bring the form right to them and he wouldn't mind taking some of the list.

Mr. Woodman said he could pass out 100 of them.

Mrs. Morin suggested that they have drop box where they can drop them off here and to include the return address so if they want to mail them in they can.

Mrs. Harris asked how many of the business forms they want to print as she assumed that a lot of them would be registered. She then said they would just print them all and they could be kept here and used as needed.

Mr. Woodman said he could cover a lot of area in a day and Mrs. Morin asked him to keep a list of where he went.

Mrs. Harris said they could also have some available at Town Meeting.

Mr. Giles said he didn't recall filling out the paper and he didn't think he was on the directory.

Mr. Woodman said he has huge printers at his store and he could print all this stuff for nothing.

Mrs. Harris thanked Mr. Woodman for the offer and said they may take him up on that. She said they would see what they could do to get those printed through the Town for their next meeting and then they could tackle distributing them in a couple of different ways.

Mrs. Morin advised them to check for the businesses already on the directory so they aren't being redundant because there are quite a few on there.

Mr. Giles said he looked into that a little and a lot of it is outdated and asked for a copy of the business list from the Secretary of State's office.

Mr. Crawford asked Mrs. Harris if she shared the Secretary of State's list in their e-mails.

Mrs. Harris said Mr. Cardinal set it up so everyone should have access to it and if they click on the link it goes to Google Docs and there are multiple tabs and one of them has the full 328 businesses listed. She said she would see if she could share it from her side.

Mr. Giles and Mr. Woodman asked her to send the link to them again.

Mr. Crawford said he could cross reference the Secretary of State's list with the list that is on the website now and if there are any gaps he could say this business is not listed here and they can determine if it's still in existence that way as well.

Mrs. Harris said it looks like they will have to start over with the one on the Town website.

Mr. Giles said he didn't think it would hurt to ask the business owner to fill it out even if it's repetitive.

Mrs. Morin said they went through the Town's business list and crossed out the ones they knew (should be removed).

Mrs. Harris asked if they have a replacement for the person who was working on the Town website.

Mrs. Morin said Admin. Asst. Erica Dickie-Yelle has been working on it and is just getting to know the website.

6). Available Commercial Business Spaces in Town:

Mrs. Harris said Mr. Henry was working on this and they would check back with him for an update at their next meeting.

Mr. Woodman asked what is going on where the Dough Boys used to be and they put up a sign and that's it.

Mrs. Morin said she didn't know and asked about the old propane place which was recently sold.

Mr. Giles said it is supposed to be a commercial building and they just remodeled it for apartments.

Mrs. Harris asked how that is getting passed.

Some members speculated it was because it is grandfathered.

Mr. Giles said he looked it up and it is supposed to be a commercial space with store front windows and somehow they got away with it.

Mrs. Harris asked if they had to do a site plan review.

Mrs. Morin said they have to go through all the steps with the Zoning and Planning Boards. She said their site plan must have been approved by the Planning Board and Building Insp. Ron LeMere is good at doing his job of code enforcement and making sure everything is up to snuff. Mrs. Harris said the space where Honey Dew Donuts was located is open and that has been a hot topic in town.

Mrs. Morin said hopefully somebody will pick that up.

Mr. Giles said he already tried and the owner wants a lot of money for it. He said the owner is out of MA and he owns a big company there so this is nothing to him. He said somebody said something bad to him and he put a sign on the door that morning.

Mr. Woodman said he was surprised that Dunkin' Donuts hasn't picked that up.

Mrs. Harris said she reached out to a couple just to advertise that that space is available but she hasn't heard anything yet.

Mr. Giles said the owner isn't afraid to sit on it and he owns the place behind it and the lot next to it (on the corner of Main St. and Rt. 11) too.

Mrs. Harris asked if there was something this committee could do to push that more. She said if they have a list they can show all the available spaces on the website.

Mr. Giles said a lot of places are scared of a septic tank and a leach field and everything has them including his industrial park. He said someone at the Water/Sewer Dept. said there is no way they can sustain that much raw material with the plant they have now. He said to put a sewer line in they would have to re-do the whole factory so there is a lot to it and hurts a lot of businesses that were going to come in that want guaranteed water and sewer.

He asked if there was a way to entice businesses to come in by giving them a tax break on the sewer.

Mrs. Morin said there is the Tax Increment Financing District but she didn't think there are any incentives.

Mr. Giles said if you're pumping once a week it's costing a fortune and they could go down the road to Rochester where there's sewer.

Mrs. Morin said there was some talk of expanding the sewer but the plant we have is not going to handle it.

Mr. Giles asked if this is something this committee could do or if it's totally up to the Selectmen.

Mrs. Morin said that would be more for the Selectmen because they would have to make sure there are funds for it and this year there are 2 bonds coming up and one is for the Hornetown Rd. and River Rd. bridges and the other is for a Town well. She said those are 2 really big things and we still have a bond on the current sewer treatment plant.

Mr. Giles said there is no one on the TIF Committee and asked where that funding is going. He asked why they couldn't look into giving some kind of tax break or an incentive towards that because it does really affect business.

Mrs. Morin said she wasn't sure of the parameters are on what they can do with the TIF District

money. I don't know what it can go to or what we can use it for and I can ask that question. I don't think we can do anything with those funds until we have that committee she said.

Mrs. Harris said to have that committee they had to get the EDC going first and the TIF used to come up in the past.

Mr. Giles said he would be on the TIF committee and his business is in the TIF District. He said some of them are fortunate and his employees come in and then they leave to go to work but if they are trying to get restaurants and stuff like that they can't sustain it because it's too much volume. We're never going to get business in town if we don't so something he said.

Mrs. Morin said the priorities right now are the well and the bridges to be fair.

Mr. Giles said it would be a short term fix to give a tax break and he wasn't talking a lot but he did not know how that would work.

Mr. Woodman said years ago he was told that if they put in sewer up there only the people that tap into it would pay that bill.

Mrs. Morin said she didn't think they could legally do that. She said she was not saying it's not on the wish list but infrastructure is definitely (a priority). Our downtown roads are a mess and are on the radar as well she said.

Mr. Giles said the Farmer's Kitchen is a very hot commodity and speaking from hearsay, if they can't get something better they are going to have to move because it's unsustainable. He said that's not just there and places like Dunkin' Donuts aren't going to buy a place with a septic tank.

Mrs. Morin said she would bring those both up at the Selectmen's meeting and if Mr. Giles wants to volunteer for the TIF District and they would appoint him to that committee and hopefully they can get enough people on that committee to get it up and running.

Mr. Woodman said back when he was on it Franklin put in all new sewer lines in their downtown district which was quite a few million dollars but the they got a grant for it. He said it's just like the bridges you have to put in for the grants then you're on their waiting list and you're ready to go.

Mrs. Morin said she thought that is part of what the TIF money is for because you have to be ready with matching funds to get some of these grants so having money in your account definitely is going to benefit us in the long run.

Mr. Giles said there is money going in there and again asked where it's going.

Mrs. Morin she thinks there is a little over \$100,000 in there and it stays in that fund.

Mr. Giles asked if \$100,000 per year goes into that fund.

Mrs. Morin said it is whatever the savings is that gets thrown in there at the end of the year.

Mrs. Harris asked if there are any plans to prohibit putting in any more leach fields in the TIF District in the future. She said with any further expansion at some point a lot of new grid will have to go in and hopefully in the future they can build wisely.

Mr. Giles said he talked to the guy that runs the sewer treatment plant and hiring someone to

put the sewer mains in is not the hard part it's that the system can't handle it. He said leach fields do work but nobody wants to pay to get it pumped once every 1-2 weeks so it scares people away.

Mr. Woodman said plus the fact that it takes up half of the property and gave Aroma Joe's as an example. He said if you look to the right of Aroma Joe's you see a pipe coming out of the ground and that's their leach field and you can't do much around that.

Mrs. Harris asked if they wanted to make one of their goals to help set up the TIF Committee and reach out for potential members.

Mrs. Morin said they have to make sure they are within the TIF District.

Mr. Giles said he would ask around at the industrial park.

Mrs. Harris asked if the subject matter expertise on this would be the Selectmen or if there was anyone else she should ask.

Mrs. Morin said Mr. Pimental would be a good one for talking about the TIF District.

Mrs. Harris said he is coming to their next meeting so they can ask him these questions then.

Mrs. Morin said she would try to dig up some literature on this.

Mr. Woodman said Farmington Family Care is empty and it has a leach field and septic system.

Mr. Giles said he didn't want stuff like Wal Mart coming in and he wants to keep that small town feel and he didn't think they were trying to pull them in but a big corporation or a big building can't sustain the septic.

Mrs. Morin said if there was a big building like that they would probably give us the funds to bring the septic up to them so if you have bigger businesses...

Mr. Giles said he didn't think they were trying to build this town into Portsmouth and that is not why he came here. We want business but small town business like what we own he said.

Mrs. Harris said in all the surveys that were done you heard a lot of the community looking for mom and pop stores and the term was no box stores.

Mr. Giles said he joined this committee to keep the businesses like theirs in town not Wal Mart or Amazon and that's not what he is looking for in town.

Mrs. Morin said she didn't think any of them are looking for anything like that and that Farmington is not ready for something like that. It doesn't fit us she said.

7). Review Draft Spring Newsletter:

Mrs. Harris said members received copies of the draft spring newsletter and she noticed there are some formatting issues to address. She said the businesses spotlighted this month include Forty to One (maple syrup), Shepherd's Gate (flowers and plants) and Clyde's Farm (commercial farming and forestry activities). She said Clyde's Farm has some Community Supported Agriculture sign-ups going on, the Shepherd's Gate flower shares bookings are open and Forty to One's pure maple syrup will be available in late March and they are expecting it to sell out faster than ever with the way this winter has been.

She said those are all approved and a lot of it is what was submitted by the businesses and

there was some information sent over for a community fashion show that is occurring in April. She said she needed to follow-up on the Annual Community Cleanup and she planned to contact the Conservation Commission to make the date (April 22) is still the same. There is some information on the Farmington Historical Society and on the front page there is some information on placemaking projects from the mural that was done in the past (Cumberland Farms on the Civic St. side). She asked if they take those down to keep them from weathering. Mrs. Morin said no as they are painted right on the building.

Mrs. Harris said there is a mention of the upcoming Town Meeting (March 15) as they discussed at the last meeting with infrastructure as one of the topics to be brought up at that meeting.

Mrs. Morin suggested they add that voting on elected positions (Selectmen, School Board and Budget Committee) and zoning amendments will take place the day before on March 14.

Mrs. Harris said in the section on bridges she referenced where people can report where they see issues as there have been a lot of folks saying there are some issues around town and she included a link to the Board of Selectmen's weekly meeting minutes for updates on their plans to address the town's infrastructure needs. She then asked Mrs. Morin for the latest update.

Mrs. Morin said they have gone to the bond bank for both the well and the bridge. She said we have some great opportunities with the well with some grants from the state and we have some ARPA funds which will reduce the cost of the well. She said there is a lot of iron and manganese in the water and this could potentially provide a new well or put something in place to improve the water quality and sustain Farmington's water for the future and they are looking at a few different sites to try to get that to happen.

Mrs. Harris said it sounded like there are some contractors or engineers in place for the bridges.

Mrs. Morin said they have been working with Stevens Engineering for the engineering for the bridge and right now there would be 2 box culverts going in on Hornetown Rd. and the structure being decked and tarred and the temporary bridge currently on Hornetown Rd. would be moved to River Rd. because the traffic on River Rd. is so much less the bridge will have a longer life there. She said at their last meeting she heard we have 7 bridges listed with the state- 5 bridges that are red listed and 2 that are pink listed so we still have a lot of work to do. She added that with the right repairs some of the red listed bridges could come off that list.

Mrs. Harris said that includes the bridges on Hornetown Rd., River Rd., Spring St. and Sheepboro Rd. according to the 2021 state bridge list and we should be getting a new report in March.

Mr. Giles said the fifth bridge is the one on Cocheco Rd.

Mrs. Morin said the Cocheco Rd. Bridge is not wide enough and something else needs to be changed but she could not recall what that is at this time.

Mrs. Harris said if there is anything else that needs to be corrected or updated in the newsletter to let her know.

8). Media Policy Update:

Mrs. Harris said their proposed updated verbiage was sent to the Town Administrator in Dec. and she hasn't heard an update on it yet but it's just about promoting businesses and if they are allowed to do that.

Mrs. Morin said they haven't talked about it and she hasn't heard anything on that and she would ask the Town Administrator about the media policy.

9). Review Civic and Community Groups for Outreach:

Mrs. Harris said the members received copies of a list of community groups and asked the committee if there are any that are missing from the list.

Mr. Giles asked if the TIF is not a group right now and that's why it's not on the list.

Mrs. Harris said this is for civic groups like the PTA, the Friends of Farmington and she didn't feel that a Town committee would be included on this. She then noted that the Conservation Commission was on the list.

Mrs. Morin said the Senior Bingo should go under the Parks and Recreation Dept.

Mr. Woodman said the 500 Club is a non-profit group and it is not listed.

Mr. Crawford asked if there are any Girl Scout Troops in town.

Mrs. Morin said Troop #188 is listed for the Boy Scouts.

Mr. Woodman said he hasn't seen them around for a while and Mrs. Harris said she would check to see if they are still active. He asked what category the Farmington Country Club would be under.

Mrs. Morin said she did not think they are a non-profit group.

Mr. Woodman said it is owned by the shareholders and they have a board of directors.

Mrs. Morin said they sell things for profit and it is open to the public. She asked where the proceeds from the sale items goes.

Mr. Woodman said it goes into fixing and maintaining the building and the grounds and paying the groundskeepers.

Mr. Crawford said if no one makes money off of it that would be a non-profit.

Mr. Woodman said he would check with Mr. Cardinal on the club's status.

Mr. Crawford asked if the Goodwin Library was on the list.

Mrs. Harris said she would add the library to the list.

Mrs. Morin said only one of the 3 schools-Henry Wilson Memorial School was on the list and the Valley View Community School and Farmington High School should be added. She said that the library was included on the back of the list but it seems like there are more than just this.

Mr. Harris said they have less than half of these on the website so they added a bit but there is still definitely more and asked the committee to let her know if they think of any more groups that are missing. She said part of this is about communicating community events and asked if the only community calendar is what's on the website right now and if anyone was aware of any other one. She said some towns have a community calendar that uses software that will allow a

representative of each group to input their event dates and then the Town approves it. She said she found one software program that was \$89 and if they have it in the budget they could do something like that and have everyone input everything and then they could just post the calendar in different places.

Mr. Crawford asked if just the community groups would have access to the calendar or if a local business such as a bar hosting a trivia night or a musician would be able to use the calendar too.

Mrs. Harris said yes and it would be anything going on in Farmington.

Mrs. Morin said if it's promoting businesses it should be open to anybody.

Mrs. Harris said other communities that have done this called it local happenings and it could be a bake sale, a Labor Day sale, the Town Christmas lighting and it could be anything on there.

Mr. Woodman suggested putting the Trustees of the Trust Funds on the list because they give out money for people that need food or something like that.

Mrs. Morin said they are Town board and that would be okay if they were going to include all of the Town boards and committees.

Mrs. Harris said this was intended for groups that have bylaws and are supposed to do different things in the community and she would look into including the Trustees of the Trust Funds.

Mrs. Morin suggested adding the Community Action Partnership and Head Start to the list.

Mrs. Harris said they could do some outreach and plan ahead for their community events for the year and if they can move forward she could send over the pricing she found for something like that and if people are interested they could just input their dates onto something.

Mr. Crawford said this could go back to registering with the Town and that could be how they get access to the calendar and promote their events.

Mr. Giles asked if it would hurt to fill that paper out for the Town even if they already did it a long time ago.

Mrs. Harris said it sounded like the SRPC doesn't get their business form sent to them filled out very frequently.

Mr. Giles said it wouldn't hurt to hand it to all the business owners anyways instead of trying to go through it and figure it out and just ask them to fill it out.

10). Meeting with Strafford Regional Planning Commission:

Mrs. Harris said Mr. Pimental will be at their next meeting so they can follow up with him and ask him that question and the TIF District and he has a lot of background in zoning.

Mrs. Morin asked if their next meeting is after Town Meeting.

Mr. Giles said it is the same day as voting day (March 14) so it would have to be moved to the week before or the week after. He said if they plan to have a table at Town Meeting he would schedule the EDC meeting for the week before that.

Consensus of the committee was to schedule the next EDC meeting for March 7.

11). Town Meeting:

Mrs. Morin said the way it works to have a table at Town Meeting is it has to be at the front of the building in the hallway. She asked if they have seen when the library has a table set up for registering new patrons and it could just be somebody standing there too.

Mrs. Harris said they will plan to have a table there and she will follow up with the Town Moderator.

12). Any Other Business before the Committee:

Town Report-Mr. Crawford said at the last meeting they talked about trying to do a group photo (for the Town Report) and asked if they are still trying to do that.

Mrs. Harris said they are still missing some folks.

Mrs. Morin said it won't go into the Town Report this year if they don't do one now.

Mrs. Harris said she submitted a committee report for the Town Report that the members didn't get to see it and it says everything that they have done so far. She said if they agree they could take a picture with the members that are present tonight.

Mr. Giles asked if Ms. Fuller is still an EDC member.

Mrs. Morin said yes but she is away at this time.

Monthly Meeting Day-Mr. Woodman said Tuesdays are tough and might make a difference to having more members available so they may have to figure something out.

Mrs. Harris said she is open to meeting on another day of the week.

Mrs. Morin said every Monday there is a Selectmen's meeting and it looks like the 4th Thursday of the month is open.

Mrs. Harris said she would add a discussion about changing the meeting day to the agenda for their next meeting.

Downtown/Rt. 11 Revitalization-Mr. Giles said they need to have the downtown sidewalks re-done and asked about having businesses purchase individual squares with their name on it to help pay for the upgrade.

Discussion then included when or if any of the sidewalks have ever been redone.

Mrs. Morin said they did get a sidewalk grant but it was used to improve the Tiger Trail.

Mrs. Harris asked if the Town has a full time grant writer because there are a lot of funds that they are not grabbing.

Mr. Woodman said that they could get grant writers through UNH.

Mrs. Harris said UNH did a study on cost effective ways to improve the town and they went for the low hanging fruit so it didn't hit the budget hard on that. She said there was a grant for the old firehouse lot where they got together at a revitalization meeting, saw images and voted on them but it sounds like it didn't move forward because of some environmental issues.

She said she would like to see some "first impressions" done on Rt. 11 where people go through and look at the businesses.

Mr. Giles said that should include the Welcome to Farmington sign. He said some people take care of it every once in a while but he did not know who that is.

Mrs. Morin said the Woman's Club did some of it but they don't maintain them anymore. She said one year a resident planted some perennials there which was nice and maybe Adopt-a-Spot is something they could be working on too with area businesses adopting those spots.

Mrs. Harris said maybe there could be a buffer area along Rt. 11 that could be planted with perennials or different business could have their own section with something planted there.

Mr. Giles said the signs are not lit up and suggested installing solar powered lighting. He then asked if the old fire station property has been sold.

Mrs. Morin said no and it is still going through some environmental stuff before it can be sold.

Mrs. Harris asked what the lead time is on that.

Mrs. Morin said she did not know.

Mr. Giles said he thought that would be a great place for a YMCA and he didn't think it should be apartment buildings. An indoor pool would be great he said.

Mrs. Morin said some of the environmental issues were related to the chemicals used at the fire station and some soil remediation needs to happen there.

13). Review Action Items:

Mrs. Morin asked if Mrs. Harris was going to have their next meeting changed to March 7.

Mrs. Harris said yes.

Mrs. Morin asked her to check with Mr. Pimental to see if the new date is still going to work for him.

14). Adjournment:

Motion: (Morin, second Crawford) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 7:17 p.m.

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary



Danielle Harris, Chairman