



**TOWN OF NORFOLK
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
January 13, 2022, 5:00pm via Zoom
MINUTES**

Present: Libby Borden, Jenna Brown, Sue Frisch, Larry Hannafin, Kate Johnson, Tom McGowan, Jim Nelson, Michael Selleck
Absent: Marie Lowe, Jon Riedeman
Guests: Matt Riiska, Ruth Melville

Libby Borden called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

The minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

The 2021-22 budget was discussed. The EDC has a balance of \$4,619.39. Michael said that the Welcome Folders may require another \$300. The commission decided to go through the agenda to see what projects might need funding during the rest of the fiscal year.

Kate reported that the Haystack Woods project has received all of its site permits from the town. The commission congratulated her for her perseverance and success. She said the CT Bond Commission has committed \$1.8M for Haystack Woods and she is optimistic that the CBDG (Community Development Block Grant) will be providing funds. She said that construction could start in the spring. The affordable housing in the town and at the Arcanum is all good.

Libby suggested that the EDC make more of an effort with the town businesses. It was decided that the EDC should have both business cards and an e-mail address. Members of the EDC will plan to reach out to the business community via Zoom, a questionnaire and/or personal visits.

Michael is going to work on a generic letter for traffic calming. Also, nothing has been done about the pedestrian walkway in front of the church.

The Welcome Folders will be mailed to new residents tomorrow. The real estate agents will also get copies as well as all members of the EDC.

The new design of the website is moving forward. Libby asked how many EDC members did not get the weekly newsletter. She will forward copies to Jim and Larry.

The WIN plans continue to be flexible depending on COVID. Sue said what a good job Michael Cobb, the new volunteer events coordinator, is doing.

Jim reported on the Yale School of Music, Norfolk Summer Music Festival. He said all the artists were in place and the student auditions were all going to be held by Zoom.

The question of limited live summer audiences will be decided by late February, early March. Jim mentioned that there is going to be a Hub talk on January 26 for a Norfolk audience about exciting future plans for Yale in Norfolk. He urged everyone to attend. Libby said that this is the first presentation by Yale to Norfolk ever and also encouraged a large audience.

Tom said that there are only three houses available in Norfolk. He also said that his video about the train is ready to be released; he will send copies to the EDC members.

Jenna reported on Friday Nights on the Village Green. The first evening on June 24th will be sponsored by the Norfolk Library and will be a Pet Parade. She has many other events and music lined up. Matt said he would help with the food truck question. Libby said that the Greve Foundation had agreed to support three evenings and Jenna will pursue with Tony Kiser. She also said she needed money for publicity; the EDC voted to budget up to \$750 for that purpose.

Matt reported that the requirements for American Rescue Plan expenditures have recently been relaxed allowing monies to be spent for a wider variety of projects. Norfolk has tentatively committed to fixing the slide and providing a generator for the Sewer District. Matt is looking into supporting the early childhood education as well as local businesses.

There being no further business, Libby adjourned the meeting at 5:50.

Libby Borden and Michael Selleck