

SPECIAL MEETING
TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
December 21, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:00. In attendance were J. Wesa, N. Soto and M. Simmons.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 18, 2018 -- A MOTION was made (Soto, Simmons) to accept the minutes as amended; ALL IN FAVOR with Mr. Soto abstaining.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

GUESTS: Ryan Snide and Sharon Viadella

The Connecticut Conservation Corps Camp is being worked on. Mr. Snide and Ms. Viadella are working with the Friends of Connecticut State Parks. Mr. Snide is a member of that board. Mr. Wesa thought it was a good "bridging" of group and spoke about the EDC trails map. Mr. Snide said there is also a partnership with the Last Green Valley. Mr. Wesa hopes to coordinate with the Connecticut Tourism Business Partners using a seasonal approach to events being put on and through social media.

Mark Simmons was welcomed as the newest Commissioner.

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE: Available for Commissioners' perusal:

- Various emails have been forwarded to Commissioners.
- A copy of Connecticut Magazine which had nothing about Voluntown. Tourism people want input for this magazine. Mr. Snide thought a visitor's center would be nice.
- Eastern Connecticut magazine put out by the Norwich Chamber of Commerce. The EDC needs to be a bridge to the magazine. Mr. Snide offered to work in this capacity.
- Social media could be used to encourage people to go to websites.
- Mr. Wesa said a mountain bike trail could be a good addition to the forest. Mr. Soto asked about "adopting" a trail.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Website/Facebook – No report

Farmers Market – The grant will determine what can be done for 2019 market. The budget will be worked on in January.

Business Development/P&Z — P&Z is still working on the Plan of Conservation and Development. Mr. Simmons spoke about a disc golf course and will get more information for the next meeting.

Eastern Tourism – Previously discussed

Business Directory — No report

Trails Brochure — The Great Cedar Swamp was discovered to be a national landmark. It needs to be designated as such on the map.

Historical Update – Wylie School has been repaired. Grants for removal of asbestos and lead paint have been acquired. Harvest New England conference information was passed out.

BUDGET — Current budget gone over. Mr. Soto asked if the .biz could be joined with the town website.

OLD BUSINESS — None

NEW BUSINESS — Meeting schedule for 2019 was gone over and will be submitted.

A MOTION was made (Soto, Simmons) to change the meeting time from 6:30 to 5:30; ALL IN FAVOR.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING — January 17, 2019

Upcoming conferences

2019/2020 budget

New ways of how to promote business

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 on a motion (Soto, Simmons); ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana M. Ingraham, Clerk

Approved for
distribution_____Date_____