

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
February 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:00. In attendance were J. Wesa, A. Binder and M. Simmons.

Mr. Wesa said that a new EDC member might be present. Mark Ledoux will be appointed at the next selectmen's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 16, 2020 – A MOTION was made (Simmons, Binder) to approve as corrected; ALL IN FAVOR.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

GUESTS: R. Snide, S. Viadella, M. Lane, members of Friends of Pachaug Forest.
Mr. Snide commented that the trails map looked good.

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE: Available for Commissioners' perusal:

-- December and January minutes from Planning and Zoning gone over. Mr. Simmons reported that the Plan of Conservation and Development will have minor changes. Mr. Wesa received a call from Judith Allik asking EDC members to take part in the Revision Committee for improvements to the Plan.

-- Friends of Pachaug Forest reported a large turnout at January event. They will attend Legislative Day. They shared a list of events they are planning for 2020. Mr. Wesa asked if they are involved with the new tourism group. They also had a list of accomplishments over two years. They are trying to get some help for an enduro/multi-use trail to enforce and protect forest from damage. Mark Therrien will be a speaker at the next FPF quarterly meeting on February 29. They will meet with Connecticut Forests and Parks Association which covers Blue Trails.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Website/Facebook – Friends of Pachaug Forest events will be included on the website and will be submitted for the town website. The Business Directory is now on the website.

Farmers Market – The vendor application was gone over. There will be a waiver from the Selectmen to encourage more vendors. The Department of Agriculture grant will not be received but another type of grant could be available. Mr. Simmons suggested sponsorships or ads. Other grants (banks, The Last Green Valley) can be pursued. Mr. Simmons will work on getting more information. Mr. Wesa asked that everyone look at the Rules and Regulations so letters can get out to vendors. A MOTION (Simmons, Binder) was made to accept the Rules and Regulations as presented, ALL IN FAVOR. Mr. Simmons investigated getting a new pop-up tent and thought it best to wait for spring pricing. Mr. Binder had information on signs; ten signs would be \$70.

Eastern Tourism – First Selectwoman Tracey Hanson is on the Board of Directors.

Business Development/P&Z — Discussed previously

Trails Map — Mr. Wesa got calls from James (printer). Mr. Wesa wants to see samples for handicapped accessible areas. Cemeteries should be put on the map. The Griswold Selectman will get \$1,000 to James to expand the map and include Griswold.

Historical Update – No report

BUDGET — Without the DoA grant, the Farmers Market budget now must be included in the EDC budget. Postcards could be sent out with directions to the online Business Directory. Mr. Simmons will work on sponsorships and have a proposal at the March meeting for approval. A MOTION was made (Simmons, Binder) to approve \$6,203 for the 2020/2021 budget; ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS — None

NEW BUSINESS — None

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING — February 20, 2020

- Sponsorship proposal
- Signs
- Banners

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 on A MOTION (Binder, Simmons); ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana M. Ingraham, Clerk

Approved for
distribution _____ Date _____