

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
October 21, 2021

Meeting called to order at 6:58.

IN ATTENDANCE: M. Simmons, T. Hanson, J. Wesa, A. Binder

GUESTS: Ryan Snyder, Friends of Pachaug Forest

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There were notes from the September 16, 2021, informational meeting.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

GUEST – Mr. Snyder went over recent and upcoming events and activities of FoPF. A Christmas Party is being planned for December 2, 2021. More information will be made available.

Mr. Wesa thanked Mr. Snyder for the group's presence at the Farmers Market

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE: Available for Commissioners perusal:

--Mr. Wesa commended Mr. Simmons for doing a good job the past year as chair

--a letter from The Last Green Valley asking for information on projects, events, etc., between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021. Mr. Wesa will do a summary of the Farmers Market. Mr. Snide submits for FoPF. Ms. Hanson can get photos and information on the grant. Ryan Hargraves of Eagle Eye is doing a one-minute promotional video with local photos. Submissions are requested by November 1, 2021.

--a copy of Preservation Connecticut magazine. They are holding a photo contest.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Farmers Market – Mr. Wesa reported there were 2,256 shoppers for the season. An 11% increase over 2020 which had 2,039 shoppers. Mr. Simmons thought it went well. An end-of-season survey wasn't done but one could be done online. Mr. Wesa complimented Mr. Simmons on getting sponsors. Mr. Wesa commented that Mr. Binder thought permanent concrete picnic table(s) could be in the farmers market area. Current benches aren't used as much as the portable tables.

EDC Website/Voluntown.Biz – No report

Business Development/P&Z – Several new small businesses are in town. Tamarack is being sold. Improvements will be happening. The Former Jedak's is up for sale. Mr. Wesa said there is a lack of real estate inventory. Ms. Hanson said people are looking for properties for data centers and marijuana sales. The town is working on a moratorium. Mr. Wesa asked what is being done with the ARP funds. Ms. Hanson has spoken with the Deputy Commissioner about Beach Pond and bike trails for mountain biking in the forest. Planning and Zoning has decided on a town planner. A contract is in the works.

Eastern Connecticut Tourism – Ms. Hanson reported that the district name change is very controversial. The Miss America Pageant is coming to the Mohegan Sun.

Trail Map –Mr. Wesa wants 45 historic sites included on the next version of the map. A large advertisement would be eliminated requiring an extra \$250 be added to next year's EDC budget request. Copies of large maps from 1975 will be requested from the town clerk for the next meeting.

Historical Update – Recommendations have been made for a contractor to do the Wylie School electrical upgrades.

Budget – No report

Old Business – Covered previously

New Business -- None

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING: November 18, 2021

The meeting ended at 8:57

Respectfully submitted, Diana M. Ingraham, Clerk Approved for distribution

_____ Date _____