

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
June 18, 2020

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

GUESTS: V. Cofone, Market Master; Ryan Snide, Friends of Pachaug Forest

Ms. Hanson congratulated Mr. Snide for being appointed to the Tourism Board. Mr. Snide said their first event will be at Mount Misery.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 21, 2020 – A MOTION was made (Hanson, Simmons) to approve with amendments; ALL IN FAVOR.

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE: Available for Commissioners' perusal:
--Mr. Wesa had two vendor applications from BZB Farms and Emily Allard (Sisu Finn Soaps).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Farmers Market – The state is offering masks and other supplies. There are some available at the town hall. Mr. Cofone had cloth masks that can be shared with vendors. There should be one entrance and one exit. He also has signs to use at the market.

Mr. Simmons heard from Jewett City Savings regarding sponsorship; they are not interested. Nothing from Eastern or Putnam Banks.

Mr. Wesa said he would not be at opening day of the market but will meet beforehand to put up banners and signs. Need to solidify plans for setup. Mr. Cofone had signs to be put up. Mr. Simmons thought a walkthrough would be good. There was agreement to meet Wednesday, July 8, at 5:00 with confirming emails beforehand.

Mr. Wesa thought the EDC table should be at the exit. Separate entrance and exit signs with other signs provided by Mr. Cofone along with a sign encouraging masks. Mr. Binder will have road signs made. Mr. Cofone had a collection of signs that could be used.

Website/Voluntown.biz – Ms. Hanson has updated and promoted that the market is still happening.

Business Development/P&Z — Mr. Simmons and Mr. Wesa are on a committee to revise the Plan of Conservation and Development. There are discussions to make zoning regulations more business friendly.

Eastern Tourism – Ms. Hanson is the vice-chair and Mr. Snide is now a member. Districts are working with the state to promote staying local would be safer and grants. The state is not getting much revenue so the tourism budget will be cut. There is a need to focus on the CT Visit website. Mr. Wesa encouraged Mr. Snide to get the Friends of Pachaug Forest events on the CT Visit calendar. Mr. Snide said that due to the current situation, he is leery of advertising events.

Trails Map — Mr. Wesa had a sample of the advertising being used by James Dodd who did not expect to be able to get enough ads to pay for the map. He suggested getting pictures of interesting sites to fill in. With Griswold sharing expenses, it might make available state grant money. Mr. Dodd is looking to have the maps available by the middle of July.

Historical Update — Mr. Snide is working on cleaning local cemeteries. Ms. Hanson said the state puts out a grant to help with old cemeteries that she will investigate.

BUDGET — The town budget has been approved with \$6,202 for the EDC.

OLD BUSINESS — Mr. Binder needed to know what should be put on the road signs.

NEW BUSINESS — Mr. Simmons voiced concerns about the new market in town on Route 165. It is more like a flea market.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING — September 17, 2020

- Election of officers — Mr. Wesa said he has been chairman for 22 years and is willing to give it up.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 on A MOTION (Hanson, Binder); ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana M. Ingraham, Clerk

Approved for
distribution _____ Date _____