

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
September 17, 2020

The virtual meeting was called to order at 6:17. In attendance were J. Wesa, T. Hanson, A. Binder and M. Simmons.

GUESTS: None

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: A MOTION WAS MADE (Wesa, Hanson) to nominate Mark Simmons for the Chair position; ALL IN FAVOR.

Mr. Wesa had been Chair for 22 years. Congratulations and thanks for his service were expressed.

Mr. Simmons asked Ms. Hanson if she was willing to keep the Vice-Chair position; she said yes. Mr. Wesa seconded; ALL IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 18, 2020 – A MOTION was made (Wesa, Simmons) to approve with a revision; ALL IN FAVOR.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

-- Ms. Hanson said there was an update on the Governor's Executive Order for businesses. Town businesses are not enforcing masks being worn by customers and employees. Selectmen printed and distributed guidelines. Consequences are closure of business until compliance is reached. Signs for not wearing masks are available.

--Farmers market must require masks being worn by everyone. Enforcement is a major issue. Mr. Wesa suggested a poster stating the Governor's Executive Order. The town has masks available. Vendors meeting before opening can be informed that anyone not wearing a mask can get one at the EDC table.

-- Following the last market in October, everything should be packed back into the shed.

-- End of market questionnaire: Ms. Hanson found a sample and will work on it.

-- Radio ads were discontinued and questioned if they would be needed.

-- No events or musicians has affected the low attendance. Could be a question on the survey.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Website/Facebook – No report

Farmers Market – Discussed previously

Business Development/P&Z — The Plan of Conservation and Development Committee is meeting to make revisions. Being proactive is the goal.

Tourism – Regional Marketing Partnership Program 2020 grants are available to promote regional tourism. \$180,000 is available. A two-to-one match up to \$5,000; a one-to-one match up to \$15,000; \$25,000. Mr. Wesa thought the trails map would fall under this. Mr. Simmons suggested a portfolio of Pachaug Forest pictures or videos. Must include logos. The project must be completed by June 2021. Maps and pictures could be compiled. Friends of Pachaug Forest, Last Green Valley and Griswold could be included.

Trails Map — Mr. Wesa has more maps to distribute. Friends of Pachaug Forest might use them as well as the State Forest Headquarters.

Historical Update – Ms. Hanson said there is a cemetery grant available. Friends of Pachaug Forest might be interested.

Wylie School needs to have the heating system set up.

BUDGET —Upcoming annual contributions to Connecticut Trust and The Last Green Valley.

OLD BUSINESS — None

NEW BUSINESS — There will be a Trunk or Treat event if the EDC would like to participate.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING — October 15, 2020 - None

A MOTION was made (Hanson, Binder) to adjourn the meeting at 7:48; ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana M. Ingraham, Clerk

Approved for  
distribution \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_