

TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
May 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:03.

IN ATTENDANCE: J. Wesa, M. Simmons

GUESTS: Pam Delaney

CITIZENS COMMENTS: Ms. Delaney was asked to fill out a volunteer application that will be given to the Board of Selectmen so they can appoint her to the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A MOTION (Simmons, Wesa) to approve the minutes of April 20, 2023, with one correction. ALL IN FAVOR.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Available for Commissioners' perusal:

--a letter from The Last Green Valley. They are accepting submissions for Walktober with a deadline of June 20, 2023.

--a letter from The Last Green thanking the EDC for partnership and contribution.

--a vendor application for the farmers' market. Mr. Wesa will handle it.

--an email from a possible vendor. Mr. Wesa will handle it.

There was a question as to whether Al Binder is still a member. There was no answer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Farmers Market – Mr. Simmons is still working on musicians and will order lawn signs.

Ms. Delaney suggested getting young people to help set up , take down and count attendance. Options of where to find such young people were discussed.

Mr. Wesa will change the dates on the banners and hang them. Mr. Wesa had a copy of the Boston Journal that had a section on farmers markets. He will contact last year's vendors. The state is changing the method of using WIC. The Agency for the Aging is working on having farmers markets at senior centers. Mr. Wesa will set up delivery of the storage container.

EDC Website/Voluntown.Biz – No report.

Business Development/P&Z – The brewery is slowly going forward.

Eastern Connecticut Tourism – No report.

Ms. Delaney brought up a town engineer to be able to do some events to attract tourists. A "punkin chunkin" event was discussed. She said there is someone who will donate pumpkins and a farmer who will allow use of his land. There should be more of an effort to get more people involved. Collaboration with the Recreation Commission would also be helpful. Ms. Delaney also suggested creating a strategic plan with historical aspects.

Trails Map – Mr. Wesa spoke with James Dodd. Mr. Dodd has enough ads for a full-size map. \$7,000 gets 3,000 maps. Delivery is projected to be the last week in June.

Historical Update – No report.

Budget – No report.

Old Business – None

New Business – Mrs. Ingraham asked for the support of the EDC for a proposal made by the Elderly Commission to the Board of Selectmen regarding a possible Senior Center

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING: June 15, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted, Diana M. Ingraham, Clerk

Approved for distribution:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_