

TOWN OF WINCHENDON



Community & Economic
Development Steering
Committee



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109 Front Street
Winchendon, Massachusetts 01475-1758
Robinson Broadhurst Conference Room 4th Floor

Organizational Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2017

4th Floor Meeting Room

109 Front Street

Winchendon, MA 01475

Participants: See attached sign- in sheet

Les Goodrich called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm

Minutes from February 23, 2017 presented for approval.

Motion to accept minutes Amenta/Fortugno 4-0 Approved. @ 1:02

New Business:

Les called for this meeting for reorganization; Steve Sroczynski has officially resigned. Michelle Peterson is looking to step up from being an alternate to being a full time board member.

Tracy noted that it is not appropriate to reorganize when there are many members absent from the meeting, including Ruth DeAmicis who was not in attendance at the meeting and has spoken about putting in her resignation to the board but has yet to do so. Reorganization should hold off until it is clarified with Ruth whether or not she will resign or step down to being an alternate. The board agrees they do not want to lose her and the insight she brings to the board. Tracy will work on getting issue resolved for the next meeting.

Some movement has happened recently between departments, Jenelle is now in the Department of Public Works, and Lindsay is now in the Planning and Development Department with the title of planning clerk, and will be taking the minutes for the CEDSC meetings. Tracy also mentioned that a large portion of the grant work has been outsourced to MRPC, which frees her up to do more community and economic development planning things. If state approves, Tracy's position will be 33% grant funded.



April 24, 2017 there will be a public hearing for the EDF grant, and also posted today is a hearing for the FY 16 Grant Management to discuss with MRPC and also to discuss loan to value with housing rehab programs. (ie: when someone owes more than the home is worth, in the past they have been denied the help they need.) The program is meant to close this gap. Tracy would like to go before the board of selectmen and consider adopting a policy to help those who are upside down on their mortgages they can still get housing rehab fronts. This is all about the longevity of the community, both of the properties and the people who live there.

Meet and greet has been scheduled for May 16, 2017 from 5:30- 7:00 with Senator Goby, Representative Zlotnik, and TM Keith Hickey. Location is tentative between 2nd floor auditorium in Town Hall or the Winchendon School. Lindsay is working on 3 posters for current and upcoming projects to display at the meet and greet. Tracy is looking to form a business alliance; Judy LaJoie has sent the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce a copy of business database who will help guide is in forming the alliance. Tracy will need the help from the committee in selling the event and getting the word out there, and being the face of the whole thing.

Upcoming Events: (Ribbon Cuttings?)

There are several phone calls and follow ups that need to happen and Tracy has asked the board for some help in doing so. Audrie LaBrie had reached out to let us know that Rite Aid is having a grand re-opening after doing some renovations; need to reach find out if they are interested in a ribbon cutting ceremony. Cruising 12 Diner is interested in a ribbon cutting as well; a day needs to be coordinated with the owner. Smith's country cheese also reached out to Les and Tracy and asked how we could help promote the opening of their gourmet grilled cheese, wine etc. food truck. The Barber shop across from CVS has changed owners as well. It is important to maintain a balance and promote all of the businesses. Everyone should be getting fair and equal representation from town officials.

Lorraine will take over calls (requested by Beth Hunt) to business owners in Winchendon to create a map of the different businesses. As of now it is a one-time \$30 fee to be part of the map/brochure. Michelle will get in touch with Rite Aid, Art and Les will team up to get in touch with Smith's and Cruising 12. The committee is the voice for the town, and it is important they help reach out to the businesses. Keep an open eye for anniversaries and grand openings to help promote the business.

New Member:

Michelle mentioned that she knows of someone interested in being on the board but is unsure of the conflict of interest factor (housing rehab client); reorganization and new board members will be further discussed when more board members are present.

Chestnut Street:

The grant that has been applied for through Slum and Blight, instead of LMI (Low to Moderate Income). Thanks to MRPC for having a slum and blight report prepared for us. Al and Keith have been helpful through pledging chapter 90 money towards the project. We have been putting more leg work into the grant, which is an attractive factor to the project; it shows commitment.

Walnut Street:

Low bid came in 40% lower than the projected cost, out of 6 bids.

Fuel assistant gifts:

We are a little more than half way through the fuel assistance gifts; about \$10,000.00 has been rewarded thus far.

Housing Rehab:

If the selectmen choose to adopt policy that doesn't eliminate loan to value we will have all 7 of the allotted properties to reward with the rehab.

Other:

There is no interest on a grocery store in town yet.

Cumberland Farms:

The store will be closing until project is complete, hopefully opening back up by Labor Day.

Next meeting:

Proposed by Les Goodrich for April 27, 2017 at 1:30pm, 4th floor conference room in Town Hall.

Motion to adjourn meeting Amenta/Fortugno 4-0 Approved 1:41pm

Meeting adjourned at 1:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lindsay Kuchta

Planning Clerk

Minutes Approved: 4/27/2017

