

**Notes from Spencer Economic Development Committee Meeting
Saturday, October 26, 2019 @ 8:30 am
Spencer Town Hall/Conference Room A**

In attendance:

Shirley Shiver, Chris Woodbury, Tony Pepe, Paul Dell'Aquila (Town Planner)

c.t.o 8:35 a.m.

Chris made a motion to adopt notes of 9/28/19 meeting; 2nd by Tony
Vote 2-0 to approve minutes (Chris & Shirley; Tony not voting)

Paul gave his Planner's Report and presented a notes sheet to the EDC (*incorporated below*):

- Conducting interviews for new BI/ZEO; Bill Klanssek no longer works for Town due to medical issue
- Brownfields Assessment Grant submitted to CMRPC to do a "Phase I" on 1 Linden St. (Saad property)
- Grant submitted to Cultural Coalition for Spencer Street pARTy 2020
- Awaiting new MDI grant window (Downtown management /marketing)
- Downtown Parking Study: will public input at Town Meeting; Stantec will make a presentation to BOS on November 18
- Sony/Screen Gems Location Scout outreach
- Solar Bylaw Review analysis underway – December workshop
- Brownfields Committee & Southern Worcester EDO updates
- CDBG update: potentially seven rehab projects (3 underway, 4 pending); some funding will go back so town can be eligible for 2020 application. Options for next cycle would be additional road work (mill & overlay Valley/Elm/Mill area) and potential Senior Center feasibility study
- New Lake Street School concept presented to BOS
- Hotel information – Worcester Chamber
- Discover Central Mass – scenic road trip

Chris asked whether Lake Street School RFP needs to be re-advertised given that demo will now occur; Paul said he will circle with Tom, but that an agreement with developer may already be in place.

Tony suggested that the EDC convene a joint meeting with the Celebration Committee (next meeting?)

Chris discussed holiday lights and garlands on light poles Downtown; Shirley asked about the process for that; **Paul will ask U & F about plugs on poles.**

There was some discussion about a common town form for events. Shirley noted that there should be a process. Chris noted a potential cover letter with form/checklist. **Paul will ask Brenda about this.**

There was more discussion about the Town's event page, and what's allowed (e.g., Boy Scout selling lemonade? Event at Sibley?)

Chris noted potential of links to an Outlook calendar

Tony noted we need more events; Tony would work with Paul on a beer fest for next year, but he has to meet on a Saturday.

New Business

There was some discussion about the potential CVS at Rt. 9 & 31. Sturbridge was noted as a contextually-appropriate example. Given location, architectural quality is important. Paul will be meeting with developers soon.

Tony urged Paul to continue with the process of drafting a letter the downtown businesses and other direct outreach. Not too specific, but list opportunities and call a meeting.

There was discussion about talking to Dmitry of Alfa Cars about Spencer Fairgrounds

Tony asked about status of Sugden redevelopment; Paul will follow up with developer.

Tony also noted previous efforts with John Stevens about attracting a higher-ed satellite campus; Paul will follow up.

Paul noted recent new items about FLEXcon donating to arts and development in Worcester; he will reach out with Tom to meet with them. It was also pointed out that banks (Cornerstone & Webster 1st) have Community Reinvestment funds so we should coordinate.

Next meeting: tentatively set for Thursday December 5 @ 6:30pm

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Tony, second by Chris. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Notes compiled and submitted by Paul Dell'Aquila