

**Notes from Spencer Economic Development Committee Meeting**  
**Saturday, February 24, 2018 @ 8:30 am**  
**Spencer Town Hall/Conference Room A**

In attendance:

Mike Toomey (chair), Chris Woodbury, John Stevens, Tony Pepe, Paul Dell'Aquila (Town Planner)

c.t.o 8:33 a.m.

Motion was made by Chris Woodbury to approve Minutes from 1/20/18 meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tony Pepe; minutes were approved 4-0

Paul Dell'Aquila gave an update on action items from last meeting:

- PD confirmed with Steve Tyler that Main Street project would be done by end of June.
- PD reached out to his café contact (Eric's La Patisserie in Worcester), but they are not looking for another location at the moment.
- PD also noted need for language in zoning use table to allow for micro-brewing & brewhouses. Following conversation, PD will research brewing/brew pub regulations from other communities and report back next meeting.

John Stevens gave an update on his action items.

Art on Main: John has been working with the Massasoit Art Guild to put up art in the empty storefront at the Sugden Block in early March (there is still some cleaning to do). Barnstorm has supported framing and lighting for the space. Mexicali equipment has been curtained off, mostly, and they will be moving some other equipment. Space could also allow for 3-D art installation. There was also discussion on funding for Sugden façade improvements (signage, windows). CW noted that Town should maintain exterior regardless of building's status. JS has also had some conversation with Cheryl Donaghue at the library about their using Sugden Block space for creative events in a more visible setting. TP noted the mix of art and new restaurants in the Fenway area of Boston. MT noted that there will be a number of media opportunities for the New Leader, Talk of the Town, and social media. There was also discussion about using local tradesmen for gratis assistance. John is working with Prouty HS teacher & student to place student art in Town Hall again. JS would also like to connect students with the Massasoit Art Guild. There was discussion about doing a reception & soft-opening for the student participants.

Flowers & Banners: JS noted outreach process was hindered by recent snow storms and school vacation week. He is coordinating with Ed & Tina Bemis. There was discussion of not having banners & flowers on the same poles. Group discussed possibility of alternating poles and extent of poles up and down Main St. We are also waiting on a quote for the watering costs. MT noted Spencer's artistic heritage and suggested coordinating with the Cultural Council.

Mike noted his recent discussion with Camp Marshall and will work with Paul to set up an outreach meeting.

PD asked group for input on the Town's current sign bylaw. Per a suggestion from CW, Paul will look into adding language to current bylaw so ODIS Director/Town Planner can review sign applications in the event that a Town Sign Committee is not constituted.

PD also asked for input from EDC on current permitting system for gravel removal operations. There was some discussion on changing the current special permit system, based on the level of activity in a given year. Group was amenable to streamlining and PD will look into it further.

EDC also requested that PD check with U & F about status of funds for parking signage related to the Main Street Reconstruction project.

Tony Pepe gave a summary on his research for a beer festival at the Fairgrounds this summer. We should meet with Atlas beverage and Polar. Atlas can't sponsor, but can allow us outreach to brewers and equipment purveyors. There was also discussion about a summer food truck festival. Tony would coordinate with Paul. Tony will get measurements for RV spaces at Fairgrounds and would talk to Bill Ross about SAA.

Tony also asked Paul on status of Blight & PARP comparison; once PD finishes RFP's for Sugden and Lake Street in the next week or so, he will move on to that analysis.

#### COMPLIED ACTION ITEMS:

Tony: Tony will get measurements for RV spaces at Fairgrounds; will talk to Bill Ross about SAA.

John: continue to coordinate with Massasoit about Sugden art installation and Bay Path about banners.

Mike: work with Paul to meet with Camp Marshall about potential community collaboration;

Paul: will research brewing/brew pub regulations from other communities and report back next meeting; will get specifics on Sugden facade funds; will look into adding language to current bylaw so ODIS Director/Town Planner can review sign applications in the event that a Town Sign Committee is not constituted; will look at options for streamlining permitting of gravel removal operations; will check with U & F about status of funds for parking signage related to the Main Street Reconstruction project; assist Tony with summer event planning; do Blight & PARP analysis.

Next meeting will be in a month.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Tony Pepe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Woodbury. Meeting unanimously (4-0) adjourned at 10:43am.

Next Meeting: 3/24/18 at 8:30am in Conf Room A.