

Notes from Spencer Economic Development Committee Meeting

Saturday, March 24, 2018 @ 8:30 am

Spencer Town Hall/Conference Room A

In attendance:

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

c.t.o 8:40 a.m.

Minutes of 2/24/18 were approved 3-0. Paul noted that he would get all approved minutes posted on the Town's website.

Paul noted the town's receipt of a grant from the state for Downtown Design Guidelines. Signage and parking throughout downtown might tie into this process, as well. There was some discussion of this issue in relation to the PARP/Blight analysis being done ahead of a potential blight bylaw at Fall Town Meeting.

John gave an update about the Sugden/Massasoit Art Guild pop-up at the Sugden Block. It will be lit up at night (on LED time) and issues with Mexicali's equipment storage are being addressed. The next step will be determining best time for doors to open and should tie in to other events and perhaps other storefronts downtown. John said that he would follow up with Chris Woodbury regarding his cleaning contact for the building.

John also gave an update on Main St. banners & flowers. He has been working with Wendy B. on potential layouts and themes (alternating polls, per Bemis). Possible coordination with Scott (from EB Flats/American Legion). Banners should be done by end of June/end of school.

There was discussion about a community summit/outreach for groups such as Exchange Club, Eagles, etc.

John also noted that there would be another Prouty student art display at Town Hall before April vacation, with an opening kickoff reception. Also, potential to have this featured on Gary Woodbury's "Talk of the Town" on SCTV. There was discussion about "sandwich board" signs and potential reverse-911 to promote events.

Tony noted that he is still talking to new Town Administrator about lease situation at Spencer Fairgrounds. Up until now, the Town has been limited to only 5 days annually. Also, there was discussion about RV parking, as there is approximately 12 acres available for parking.

Mike noted that he and Paul met with Jeanne at Camp Marshall to discuss programs and town partnership opportunities. Paul noted that the Camp needs grant writing capacity. Mike noted that Service Corps of America volunteers could stay at Camp, which could allow for them coming to town.

Mike noted his recent conversation with a local realtor and getting him involved with EDC.

Tony also noted we should connect more with local Chambers and business groups.

Mike noted that we should/could use Grant Watch to target opportunities. Paul will talk to Town Administrator Tom Gregory about this.

Tony noted that we should also consider farmers markets and food trucks for fairgrounds and other areas. Paul would follow up with Tony's food truck contact.

There was some discussion about the landfill solar project, which is still being negotiated with Town & developer.

John noted that he had reached out to Sheila Cuddy at Quabog Valley CDC about potential collaboration.

There was discussion about when to have the next meeting, as April 21 will be vacation week. April 28 was set at next meeting, although Tony may have to call in remotely.

There was some discussion about a downtown business guild; Paul would reach out about speaking to Exchange Club (through Mike Bifford)

There was discussion about a "leadership summit" involving a meeting of the Eagles, Rotary, etc...

COMPLIED ACTION ITEMS:

Tony: will measure size of potential RV area at Fairgrounds;

John: follow up with Chris Woodbury regarding his cleaning contact for the Sugden Block; follow up on flower & banner program; follow up on Sugden pop-up

Paul: get all approved minutes posted on the Town's website; follow up about Grant Watch; follow up with Tony's food truck contact; beer meeting with Tony & Atlas on Monday March 26; research zoning for blight, breweries, and solar projects.

Mike: grants and real estate follow up

Meeting Adjourned at 10:36am

Next Meeting: 4/28/18 at 8:30am in Conf Room A.