

Notes from Spencer Economic Development Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 28, 2019 @ 6:00 pm

Spencer Town Hall/Conference Room A

In attendance:

Chris Woodbury, John Stevens, Shirley Shiver, Warren Monette, Paul Dell'Aquila (Town Planner)

Meeting was moved to Conference Room B because of SCTV work outside Room A.

c.t.o 6:04 p.m.

Chris made a motion to adopt minutes of 12/10/18; second by John; motion passed 3-0.

Chris made a motion to adopt minutes of 2/28/18; second by John; motion passed 2-0.

There was discussion about the Downtown Design Guidelines Open House scheduled for April 23 in Town Hall. Thoughts were to focus on specific buildings, sign renderings, emphasize Spencer's character (such as street lights & planters); emphasize different looks of Barnstorm, Alfa Cars, and Finally Kelly's, for examples.

Paul gave an update on other grants. CMRPC has finalized Gateway project and provided revised renderings. Paul is waiting to hear from DHCD on this year's MDI consultants, although he expects an initial meeting after Town Meeting. Also, Paul has applied to Mass Development for funds to explore creating a downtown economic development entity.

Paul reported that he was in touch with the Worcester Chamber of Commerce regarding hotel contacts, as he would like to ascertain what requirements (lot size, traffic flow, etc.) they have.

Chris said he had heard that a bid has been placed on the former Spencer Furniture building.

John reported that West of Worcester has been expanding and that owner Dylan Roy may be looking at finding additional space in Town.

Warren discussed idea of seasonal event downtown, such as Holiday Caroling in November, tree lighting, parade, decorating contests, etc.

Warren also put forth the idea of speakers mounted on light poles downtown, to pipe in music, possible public address ability. Cost is approx. \$5000-6000, with Barnstorm already donating some. Warren asked about a possible boot/pail drive to raise funds.

There was some discussion about the need for and layout of easement next to Sugden Block for any outdoor use for Mexicali.

There was discussion about how Spencer can get of Mass Film Commission list for filming locations (Oxford may have done this)

John gave an update on this season's flowers/banners program. He met with Bemis's recently, now he needs to coordinate with Scott from the American Legion; also, he wants to ID a Main Street merchant; baskets will remain massed (not alternating). Warren noted that there should be coordination with the American Legion parade planned for June and also suggests reaching out to Wendy Berthiaume.

There was a brief discussion about the need to get new EDC members, especially from merchants and businesses.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Notes compiled and submitted by Paul Dell'Aquila