

**Notes from Spencer Economic Development Committee Meeting**  
**Saturday, June 2, 2018 @ 8:30 am**  
**Spencer Town Hall/Conference Room A**

In attendance:

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

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

Minutes of 3/24/18 meeting were approved 3-0.

There was discussion about updating/adding to the list of businesses on the town's website. Paul will look into who has & maintains this list.

Paul will also look into drone bylaws.

Paul gave an update on the status on the PARP & Blight report analysis.

There was discussion of whether the Selectmen needed to designate another member now that John Stevens is no longer on the board. Also, EDC should get new members, especially from a local bank, possibly Webster First or Cornerstone.

As part of outreach marketing, Paul will reach out to Nelson Ezen about getting on Exchange Club meeting in fall.

Action Item reports

John discussed utilizing the former Curves space at the Sugden Block for Friends of the Library or Massasoit Art Guild programming. Mexicali has to clean space. John has also joined Massasoit as a member. John asked Paul to clarify rules for placement of "sandwich board" signs.

John also noted some logistical challenges with flowers/flags for Main Street. Also, there was money designated for concrete planters and parking wayfinding signs as part of the Main Street project. Additionally, there was discussion about increasing & improving wayfinding downtown and at town gateways. Paul noted that the town has sought funding from CMRPC.

Mike noted that there are potentially several grant opportunities, some related to Camp Marshall, that need to be explored.

There was more discussion about marketing and improving Spencer's image. Chris Woodbury noted Fox-25's "zip trips" as an opportunity. John noted the potential of a beer tasting room at the Abbey and the idea of a "North Spencer cluster" as a regional draw and marketing opportunity.

There was discussion about the negativity of social media and the need for Spencer & EDC to have a platform. Chris Woodbury made a motion to authorize Paul to look into social media policy and create a Facebook page. Second by John Stevens. Vote 3-0 to approve motion.

Mike also noted the lack of Spencer's presence in regional marketing publications. Chris noted the need for a media outreach strategy.

There was discussion about the June 23 meeting with guest Sheila Cuddy from the Quabog Valley CDC. John noted CDC programs with seniors, computers, business plans, and networking. Also, CDC was involved with Three River TRACK in Palmer, which could serve as a useful model for Spencer and the local creative economy.

There was discussion about the need for a Downtown Event ala Spree Day or Family Day.

There was also a question on the timing of paving Main from Wall to School St. as well as the sequence for Meadow Road work.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05

Next Meeting: 6/23/18 at 8:30am in Conf Room A with guest Sheila Cuddy from the Quabog Valley CDC.