

Notes from Spencer Economic Development Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

Spencer Town Hall/Conference Room A

In attendance:

John Stevens, Tony Pepe, Warren Monette, Chris Woodbury, Paul Dell'Aquila (Town Planner)

c.t.o 7:00 p.m.

Tony made a motion to adopt minutes of 4/25/19; second by John; motion passed 2-0 (Warren & John).

Paul gave his Planner's Report.

There was discussion about the \$14,000 grant that the town was awarded (with CMRPC's help on the application. The grant calls for a combination of active & passive treatments for the spaces next to the Sugden Block & Library to promote multi-generational activity. Paul showed some conceptual renderings produced by CMRPC and Fuss & O'Neil (as part of the MVP grant). Warren noted his previous ideas for a book-shaped sculpture in front of the library. John raised the question about what to call the green spaces and suggested "Richard's Corner" or some variation in honor of Richard Sugden. There was general discussion about possible naming contests for the area.

There was additional discussion about the Downtown Design Guidelines being finalized by Harriman; Harriman will be providing a final version with graphics by July.

Tony raised the question about marketing of specific parcels/opportunities in trade journals, as Mike Toomey has noted in the past. The former court house site was mentioned as a possible location for a hotel

Action Item Updates

John gave an update on the Spencer Street pARTy. He and Paul have been doing various outreach and fundraising. They had a recent discussion with Dmitry & David from Alfa cars, who will participate in and likely help sponsor the event. John also notes that banners for the event would be going up at 136 Main Street.

Tony suggested that the EDC push back the planned July presentation until August to allow recent outreach to unfold. Tony suggested it as a joint meeting. Tony also noted Five Loaves changing hands.

New Business

John asked about the notion of QVCDC having a future quarterly meeting in Spencer, which was positively received by the group. John is a board member of QVCDC.

Tony noted the ongoing scheduling difficulties for a potential beer fest at the fairgrounds. Given the calendar, he & Paul will begin looking at possible dates for 2020 so we can get a prime date. Warren suggested coordinating with the Abbey and Chris suggested looking at a May date.

Tony also noted that he would work on scheduling a meeting with the Celebration Committee.

Paul noted that he would be speaking with Pioneer Valley about potential uses for the CDBG income funds.

John noted previous discussions with Aaron Keys about marketing and would ask him to come to the next meeting.

Next meeting: tentatively set for Thursday, July 25

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Notes compiled and submitted by Paul Dell'Aquila