

Notes from Spencer Economic Development Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 20, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

Spencer Town Hall/Conference Room A

In attendance:

Tony Pepe, Chris Woodbury, Shirley Shiver, John Stevens, Paul Dell'Aquila (Town Planner)

c.t.o 7:10 p.m.

Paul gave Planner Report. Town received two responses to the reissued RFP for the Sugden Block. The Building & Property Reuse Committee met last night (9/19/18) and one party was asked to make a presentation to a joint BPRC & BOS meeting next month. There was discussion about how to assist tenants with locating new spaces.

Harriman, consultant working on Downtown Design Guidelines, will meet with Town Staff next week (9/26/18) and is also looking to interview local business owners & proprietors downtown. EDC suggested Doug Cutler from Barnstorm, Kelly Chisholm from Finally Kelly's and Marc Seguin from Cormier's. Also, CMRPC planners working on Gateway Study will also attend meeting to help coordination.

Paul noted that there would be an upcoming meeting of Economic Development Committees organized through Leicester EDC and he will keep the EDC posted. Paul also noted the need for additional EDC members, especially from the private sector.

Paul noted that zoning changes won't be addressed until early in the new year ahead of Spring Town Meeting.

There was discussion about the closing of Spencer Furniture and Five Loves no longer offering dinner service.

Tony discussed potential beer festival in Spencer following his visit to the Appleseed fest in Leominster. He will meet with Paul to discuss logistics and determine whether event is feasible. Paul also noted he would be meeting with a group wanting to hold a hot air balloon festival next summer at the Fairgrounds. There is potential synergy with the two events. Tony also noted that the Celebrations Committee should be more active. Paul would also reach out to food truck contacts about these events.

John noted that the QVCDC small business class got underway in Spencer at the Senior Center. He just came from class. Also, he & Paul will be organizing a creative economy meeting with Spencer creatives to gather input and ideas for events. John noted the Backwoods Studio Tour in Brookfield's as one idea.

Chris W noted potential for the Spencer Furniture site. Also, town needs to push Reliant & Saad on what their plans are for their properties.

Next meeting tbd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.