

## Kennebunk Economic Development Committee

### Minutes

Thursday – March 4, 2021 4:30 P.M.

### Zoom Meeting

Attending Members: June Huston (Chair), Maureen Flaherty. (Vice Chair), Gary Dugas, Justin Young, Bob Fiore, Steve Sawyer and Bob Georgitis

Also in attendance: Blake Baldwin (Select Board Liaison) and Laura Dolce (KK&A C of C)

Members Absent: None

- 1) Open Meeting by June H. at 4:34 PM.
- 2) Review minutes of February 4th, 2021 – Motion by Maureen F, second by Steve S. – approved as presented.
- 3) Presentation, and discussion with the board, by Denise Clavette, Planning and Development Director for the City of Saco:
  - a. Saco was 1<sup>st</sup> city in Maine to have a TIF.
  - b. Invested \$60,000,000 in the 18 months before COVID.
  - c. Did a lot of Credit Enhancement, creating a lot of wealth, and a lot of public infrastructure, trails, and bridges.
  - d. Saco has two full time people in economic development. They work closely with the Town Attorneys to develop TIF's. Some of these projects are allowed community wide.
  - e. Saco has a Transportation TIF and puts \$100,000 per year into the downtown area through a non-profit call "Saco Maine Street". Also puts \$200,000 into a COVID loan program, 50% of which is forgiven after 5 years.
  - f. She recommended Kennebunk preform a market analysis to help justify getting an Economic Director and to determine what the town needs. Could also partner with The Chamber on economic development.
  - g. Saco started (just before COVID) a business retention & expansion program. The need is to establish and maintain open line of communication between the Town and the Businesses.
- 4) Discussion on strategies to help local businesses:
  - a. Need ideas on business retention. Invite Downtown business owners to one of our meetings.
  - b. Laura D. noted we need a data base of what is available
  - c. John Costin noted we need to know what businesses want, what we can do with them, not for them.
- 5) Branding Committee update, Maureen F. – working with Tina Radel on developing a survey.
- 6) Connectivity Committee update, Bob G. – He and John Johnson are working on survey questions.
- 7) Adopt subcommittee Guidelines/Goals/Deliverables. June H. – this was suggested by the Town Attorney. Will discuss at a future meeting.
- 8) Update on Rest Area Property, Bob G – per discussion with Chris O., the company is still moving forward with the purchase.
- 9) Adjourn at 6:19 PM

respectfully submitted: Gary Dugas