

Kennebunk Economic Development Committee

Minutes

Thursday – September 6, 2019 4:30 P.M.

Town Hall Room 300

Attending Members: June Huston (Chair), Jonathan Johnson (Vice Chair) Bob Georgitis Gary Dugas, Rachel Phipps, and Justin Young.

Also in attendance: Brian Doyle (Acting Economic Development Director), and Laura Dolce (KK&A C of C).

Members Absent: Gary Dugas, Maureen Flaherty, Miriam Whitehouse

- 1) Open Meeting by June H. at 5:04 pm.
- 2) Review and approve minutes of August 1, 2019 meeting – Motion Bob G., Second by Steve H., approved as presented.
- 3) Public Comments:
 - a. Steve H. commented that he just loves the flowers in town.
 - b. Laura D. reminded all that the KKA Chamber annual dinner is next week 9/11 at 5:30. Event to be held at Vinegar Hill. Businesses will be recognized by category as voted by the community. A Beer and branding seminar will be held at Allison's on 9/23.
- 4) Connectivity Workgroup Update – Jon J.
 - a. Jon J. state that the workgroup has been meeting with the local Internet providers to determine what bandwidth is in place now and what the carriers' future plans may be. They are also in the process of developing a survey to distribute to the community and get a better understanding of potential bandwidth needs and what people are willing to pay.
 - b. Brian D. has been in contact with cell service providers. The community has provided a lot of negative feedback on cell reception especially in the downtown area where the businesses are. Those faced with the issue, need to text their provider (611) so they can map the areas of poor reception.
- 5) Newsletter Update – Steve H.
 - a. Steve H. proposed we discuss the concerns that he and others he met with at the Town, have in regards to the focus of the newsletter.
 - b. Laura D. recommended that he query the readers of the newsletter in regards to what they want to see.
 - c. Rachel recommend that he establish a workgroup to address to address this
 - d. Laura D. and Brian D. agreed to assist Steve.
- 6) Report of the Economic Development Director – Brian D:
 - a. IRepair Maine is a new business in the downtown. Restless Threads is now closed. Well Housed is moving in to where Found was located. A meeting of downtown landlords was held this morning and they received good feedback.
- 7) Downtown Storefront vacancies
 - a. Jane H. expanded on Doyle's report regarding a downtown landlord meeting they attended. Several owners complained about the lack of aesthetics on Garden Street and lack of sign visibility due to the trees obstructing. Gorham Savings Bank landlords are planning to spend the time needed to find a good long term renter.
- 8) Creative Economy Update – June H.
 - a. June H. showed a presentation to the Biddeford City Council by the Heart of Biddeford and Engine. Though Creative Economy can be broadly defined, she would like to explore it through artistic expression and use Engine as a model. Several events held by these organizations were show cased in the clip. It was discussed visiting Engine at our next meeting and members seemed agreeable.

Adjourn at 6:31 PM

respectfully submitted: Jonathan Johnson