



Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee

Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Pamela DiPietro-Hale <i>Chair</i>	✓	Sandra Lipsey	✓	Andrea Ferrante <i>Council Liaison</i>	✓
Chris Wasileski <i>Vice Chair</i>	-	William Lunt III	✓	Nathan Poore <i>Staff</i>	✓
Dimitri Balatsos	✓	Mindy Schwartz	-	Theo Holtwijk <i>Staff</i>	-
Brian Bakke	✓			Meredith Sells <i>Staff</i>	-

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm. (Official meeting started at 4:55 when a quorum was reached)

1. **Review of Draft Minutes** (Occurred at 4:55)

The draft minutes of the November 7, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

2. **Follow Up from November 15 Business Forum and Very Merry Falmouth 2018** (discussion started prior to a quorum)

Committee members mentioned that they thought the recent forum was successful. All were very appreciative of John Wasileski's presentation. Pam reported that a representative from SCORE offered to present at a future forum. Sandra expressed appreciation for the offer but didn't think their mission was applicable to our objectives in the business forums. There was some discussion about the time of day for the forums and that alternating times was a good idea.

Nathan reported that the Very Merry event was well attended and most likely higher than previous years. The Chamber has established itself with the Friday mix and mingle event and the Library has taken complete ownership of the 5K run. There was some discussion about the FEIC take on the coordination of the Hot 'n Pot event. The committee acknowledged that we were low in participants this year and that it won't be a problem in future years if they connect with businesses earlier in the summer. There were some differences in opinion regarding whether this was something that the FEIC should take on as a committee. All agreed to schedule this for further discussion at their June 2019 meeting.

Nathan brought up recent ideas to include non-profits for awareness of their missions and possibly other objectives (perhaps like a volunteer and awareness fair) between the 5K and Hot 'n Pot event on Saturday. The Committee thought this was a good idea.

3. Business Forum Planning

The committee selected February 12 @ 12:30 PM as the next forum date and time re STEM. They agreed to invite non-Falmouth businesses to attend the meeting, those businesses that have forged a partnership with Falmouth Schools and STEM. Some members mentioned that adding a letter “A” for arts to STEM should be a question for panelists at the forum. There was also mention of asking questions about how STEM is used for student going into the “trades.” Committee members also stated that there needs to be a full explanation for what STEM means when we publicize the meeting because many do not know what STEM is about. The committee wants to review a staff proposed forum promotion plan and schedule at its next meeting. It should include advertising in the Forecaster, social media, School communication infrastructure and specific invitation to business that would benefit from STEM including but not limited to: Southworth, Tidesmart, and Audubon.

The committee looks forward to getting to work on the March energy forum and decided that it needs to be an evening meeting.

4. Project Updates

Nathan offered updates on Route 100 Construction and how it has a funding gap but staff is confident that it will be worked out and that the project will proceed as planned.

Nathan also reported on the proposed Falmouth Center project which will be on the December 10 Council agenda.

Finally, Nathan reported that the growth/density evaluation, led by LPAC will also be on the December 10 Council agenda. Sandra reported that LPAC had a great meeting last week and that the public participants seemed to be more informed.

5. Next meeting

The next FEIC meeting will be on December 19 at 4:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Draft minutes prepared by Nathan Poore, December 8, 2018