

Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee

Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Present:

Pamela DiPietro-Hale <i>Chair</i>	√	William Lunt III	√	Andrea Ferrante <i>Council Liaison</i>	-
Chris Wasileski	√	Edward Pierce	-	Nathan Poore <i>Staff</i>	√
Brian Bakke	-	Mindy Schwartz	-	Theo Holtwijk <i>Staff</i>	√
Paul Bergkamp	-				

Pam started the meeting at 4:34 PM.

1. Review Draft Minutes of April 17, 2019 Meeting

As there was no quorum, the draft minutes of the April 17, 2019 meeting were tabled.

2. Discuss draft questions for Council Candidate discussion

Pam said that the committee had planned a discussion with Council candidates on May 15, but that she had received a phone call from Caleb Hemphill, Council Chair, with a request that the committee rescind this event. The reason for that was that citizen group had expressed interest to organize a televised Candidates Forum, and that May 15 was the only available day for that. Pam asked Bill and Chris what they thought. Both were OK with this change in plan.

Pam said that she had exchanged e-mails with Lisa Joy, one of the Forum organizers. Lisa had invited the committee to submit a question for the Forum. It was acknowledged that past Forums had been organized by others, not Town committees. Pam said that the planning for this Forum seemed to be still a work in progress.

The group reviewed the questions that Paul had submitted. Bill liked the first question. Pam said that it would be good to know what the candidates felt the Town should look like in 5-10 years. Nathan wondered if the public knows what “economic improvement” is. Chris suggested that some examples of that may help to see which one candidates agree with. Bill disagreed with that and felt the question should be kept short. He said that there was a difference between “improvement” and “development.” Chris said that it would be good to know if candidates were pro- or anti-development. Nathan suggested that the second question could be blended in with the first: what should economic improvement be or not be? Chris suggested adding “community development.” Pam wondered how that related to economic improvement.

Pam stated that the planned Forum would be recorded live and would reach a larger public than the committee could. Nathan suggested asking candidates to give examples of acceptable and unacceptable economic improvement. The committee settled on these two questions: What is the candidate's vision for future economic improvement? What types of businesses, and what would that look like? The committee felt these were appropriate questions. Chris asked where political signs can be located. Pam will report the suggested questions back to Lisa. The idea is that the moderator should ask the first question but can ask the second question by way of follow-up.

3. Discuss program and date for next FEIC Business Forum

Pam stated the next forum was meant by and for small business owners to focus on the question how you start a small business. What are the challenges of that and what resources are available to help with that? Chris suggested inviting the SBA to come. Pam asked if the forum should have an industry focus. Bill stated that it should be geared to any industry. Nathan wondered if someone from Arta Custom Farming would be good. They have regularly attended past forums. Pam suggested holding the forum in late June. The committee discussed possible locations. TD Bank in West Falmouth was mentioned.

Pam said that each committee member should think of two names for possible speakers representing local businesses and bring those to the next meeting. Nathan will check on the date for the Town volunteer dinner so as not to conflict with that.

4. Other Business

Pam will let the committee know the final plan for the Candidates Forum.

There was a brief discussion if the committee should change its meeting time.

5. Next Meeting: May 15, 2019 4:30pm

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 PM.

Draft minutes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, May 20, 2019 rev 1