

**Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2019**

Present:

Pamela DiPietro-Hale, <i>Chair</i>	•	William Lunt, III	•	Janice De Lima, <i>Council Liaison</i>	•
Chris Wasileski, <i>Vice Chair</i>	•			Nathan Poore, <i>Staff</i>	•
Brian Bakke	-	Mindy Schwartz	-	Theo Holtwijk, <i>Staff</i>	-
Paul Bergkamp	-			Marguerite Fleming, <i>Staff</i>	•

Others Attending: Kevin Moss

Pam started the meeting at 4:31PM.

1. Quorum

A quorum was not established.

2. Review Draft Minutes of September 4, 2019 Meeting

Review of the draft minutes was tabled until next meeting because quorum was not established.

3. Review of Meeting Materials

Staff distributed Paul Bergkamp's suggestions for Business League questions.

4. Public Comment

Kevin Moss said he had applied to join the Committee. He is a new Falmouth resident; recently moving from Georgia. He works in Human Resources.

5. Discussion with Falmouth-Cumberland Community Chamber Leadership

- Pam spoke with Jill Braun via telephone. She owns the State Farm Insurance Agency on Route 1 and is the President of the Falmouth/Cumberland Community Chamber. Jill is interested in involving the Chamber. She will talk with her board at their next meeting. Committee members discussed whether the Chamber will be a member or sponsor of the League. The Committee discussed having consensus at the last meeting around wanting the League to be independent of the Town.
- Pam's goal for the meeting is to have a rough draft of the Business League Plan to give Jill to present at her board meeting.

6. Discussion regarding draft Falmouth Business League Protocol

- Committee members discussed the document that Paul Bergkamp circulated via email with feedback questions.
- Better Business in a Better Falmouth statement
 - Committee members discussed wanting to expand the Falmouth business community language to include businesses that do business in Falmouth, but are not based in Falmouth
 - Pam noted that she liked “the league focuses on the success...” statement and the questions aimed at gaining feedback on the statement.
 - Chris said he would send the statement and questions to his team.
 - Nathan suggested switching “aligned with the Town values” with “and Falmouth as a community.”
 - Pam asked Bill to provide clarification on the status of the Falmouth Economic Development Commission (FEDC). Bill said that he is not sure whether it has been dissolved or not. Pam asked for Bill to talk to the members and invite them to partner with the Falmouth Business League if he felt it was appropriate.
 - Pam asked that members send any further comments on this section to her via email.
- Pam asked Committee members whether they thought that the proposed series of questions was too long.
 - Chris asked how the survey would be disseminated. He has not had good luck with surveys in the past. Pam said that there had been consensus at the last meeting about doing face-to-face interviews.
 - Nathan asked about the “regional target business sectors” under the first question. He suggested changing the language to be broader. He said the last two sets of questions seem more like Comprehensive Plan questions. He suggested that the Committee think about more open-ended type questions for the last two sets of questions. He said that in talking to business leaders there is some element of what’s in it for them. Maggie suggested adding a question regarding what services the League could provide that could help business leaders. Chris and Bill said that they liked the idea of having more open-ended questions. Chris agreed that the second and third sets of questions were somewhat leading.
 - Nathan suggested having staff work on refining the second and third sets of questions
 - He suggested adding a question about events and refining the second and third sets of questions into a question about whether the League should focus on programs related to labor development.
- Pam said that the goal would be to have the interviews completed by December so that the Committee can kick off the League in January. She said that Jill asked whether the League would have a membership fees. Nathan said that next steps would include creating a board and forming that a 501c3 and then sending a mailer to businesses announcing the League.

- Staff will work with Paul to refine the questions by the next meeting.

7. Other Business

- Councilor De Lima mentioned the Korn Ferry Tour coming to the Falmouth Country Club in June 2020. Pam said that she will ask Jill about what the Chamber's involvement would be. Committee members discussed what the attendance draw of the tournament might be.
- Councilor De Lima said that the Appointments Committee is encouraging applicants to attend board and committee meetings to get a feel for what those are like.
- Nathan said that Paul Bergkamp erroneously served too many terms on LPAC. The Appointments Committee is recommending that he be appointed to LPAC+. Nathan needs to review the Charter to see if he can still serve as the LPAC liaison to FEIC.
- The library construction is on schedule and on budget. The anticipated opening is March or April 2020.
- Nathan discussed an agenda item on the 9/23 Council Meeting agenda regarding the Tidewater Farm buildings.
- Summit Natural Gas is expanding throughout West Falmouth.
- JP's restaurant is opening in the old Hug's location.
- Committee members discussed recent zoning change requests in the VC1 and BP zones.

8. Set Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2019.
- Agenda items include further discussion of the pre-work for the Falmouth Business League feedback sessions and discussion of business leaders to interview
 - Committee members will bring in different business community lists such as the Chamber list and staff will pull the personal property list for review.

9. Adjourn

- Chris motioned to adjourn; Bill seconded. Motioned carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49pm.

Draft meeting minutes prepared by Marguerite Fleming, September 25, 2019