

**Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 17, 2020**

Present:

Chris Wasileski, <i>Chair</i>	✓	Kevin Moss	✓	Marguerite Fleming, <i>Staff</i>	✓
William Lunt, III, <i>Vice Chair</i>	-	Nicholas Weightman	-	Theo Holtwijk, <i>Staff</i>	✓
Paul Bergkamp	✓	Janice De Lima, <i>Council Liaison</i>	✓	Nathan Poore, <i>Staff</i>	✓

Others Attending: Tommy Johnson, Director of Membership & Events, Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce

Theo started the meeting at 4:33 pm.

1. Establish Quorum.

- Quorum was not established.

2. Review and Approve the Draft Minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting.

- The minutes were not voted upon as quorum was not established.

3. Update on COVID-19

- Chris said that OceanView has been static in the number of cases for the last three to four weeks.
- Theo described the Town’s business resource efforts during the pandemic including creating a list of restaurants offering curbside service and “Open for Business” status form, keeping in touch with businesses, email communications, hosting a “Falmouth Business and COVID-19” webinar, and the Council’s passing of the outdoor dining and retail emergency ordinance.
- Tommy reviewed COVID-19 related resources on the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce’s website and discussed the Governor’s Economic Recovery Committee.

4. Discussion by committee members regarding the Falmouth Business League concept and outreach. Report from Nathan Poore and Chris Wasileski regarding discussion at March 12 Community Chamber Board meeting.

- Janice said the Council will hold its annual work plan retreat in July and for the Committee to let her know if there are new initiatives that it would like to work on.
- Chris said the Committee had begun to discuss planning events at its last meeting and felt that moving forward with the League would hinge on the ability to hold events. He said that the Committee had discussed Route 100 has the topic for the kick-off event.
- Chris provided an update on his and Nathan’s attendance at the March Community Chamber Board meeting. He said that the Chamber provided positive feedback on the League’s purpose and would like to be in the loop and potentially collaborate on events. He said that the Chamber board members expressed interest in having representatives attend FEIC meetings. He also said that the Chamber desired to work together on scheduling so that events did not overlap.

- Tommy said that many Chamber events are open to the public and that members receive a discount. He said that he did not want the Community Chamber and the Business league to cannibalize each other. He described how the Community Chambers in surrounding towns work collaboratively with the Downtown organizations.
 - Paul said that he did not want the League to go against the Community Chamber's needs. He said that when interviewing business leaders, it came up that businesses were not Chamber members but had needs.
 - Paul asked about next steps. Chris said that when the Committee decides to schedule a League event it needs to consult with the Community Chamber. Tommy added that the Community Chamber used to hold monthly events but found that there was too much competition with other events.
 - Paul asked if the business assistance questions that Theo has received could be used as an event topic. Theo said that the webinar was aimed at allowing businesses to hear from each other. He said that the webinar did not have a large audience. He said that the discussion is shifting to how businesses can safely reopen.
 - Kevin expressed concern about the business community's interest in the League.
 - Tommy suggested that in the interim the Committee could direct Falmouth businesses to the Chamber webinars.
 - Chris said he was in favor of hosting virtual events.
 - Paul asked how the Committee can keep a pulse on what businesses need. Tommy suggested subscribing to the Chamber email notifications. Chris described how webinars have been helpful. Kevin said the Committee needs to nudge the businesses to tell the Committee what they need.
 - Kevin suggested finding a Falmouth based business to start with such as having Skillins discuss how gardening has exploded during the pandemic.
- 5. Review of FEIC items in the 2019-2020 Council Work Plan.**
- Theo said the Council Work Plan Retreat would be held on July 24. He reviewed the Committee's 2019-2020 Work Plan assignments.
 - Councilor De Lima said the Council is facing a very tight budget.
- 6. Opportunity for members of the public to address the committee on any item not on the agenda.**
- No members of the public were in attendance.
- 7. Other Business.**
- The Committee discussed the July 8 Forum/Discussion on Community Policing in Falmouth. Janice said it would be nice to hear from businesses at the Forum. Paul said that managing diversity and cultural sensitivity came up in the League business leader interviews. Janice suggested inviting all committee members to upcoming forums.
 - Nathan said the Library just hired a new director, Jenna Mayotte. Ms. Mayotte specialized in business and management at the Syracuse University Library before her most recent role as Assistant Director at the Portland Public Library.
- 8. Set Date and Agenda for Next Meeting.**
- The next meeting will be held on July 15.

9. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Draft meeting minutes prepared by Marguerite Fleming on July 13, 2020.