



# Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 16, 2017

William Lunt III <i>Chair</i>	✓	Sandra Lipsey	✓	Andrea Ferrante <i>Council Liaison</i>	-
Dimitri Balatsos	✓	Mindy Schwartz	✓	Nathan Poore <i>Staff</i>	-
Pam DiPietro-Hale	-	Chris Wasileski	✓	Theo Holtwijk <i>Staff</i>	✓
Ethan Gamage	✓			Andrew Clark <i>Staff</i>	✓

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

### 1. Review of Draft Minutes from the July 19, 2017 Meeting

The draft minutes of the July 19 meeting were approved as written.

### 2. Revisions to the Committee Charge

Theo solicited input regarding the committee's charge following the last meeting. The committee discussed the definition of "economic development." Dimitri offered a definition that went beyond job creation: "Economic development consists of promoting an environment conducive to attracting, retaining and expanding business opportunities in Falmouth in a manner consistent with the Town's current and future ordinances." Dimitri explained that he imagined the committee's work would touch on zoning, housing, affordability, real estate, and more. Bill agreed, urging expansion of business opportunities in general rather than jobs specifically. The committee concurred with Dimitri's new definition.

Sandra raised questions with Goal #2. There was discussion as to whether a "sustainable" economy or "quality" employment opportunities can be effectively measured. The committee agreed to strike "quality" from the sentence.

Theo said he would notify Nathan and Andrea of the group's interest in making these changes to the charge, get feedback, and see if they have any additional changes. Any changes would need to be approved by the Council.

### 3. Falmouth Business Owners Forum

Theo provided an outline of previous ideas around the Business Owners Forum. He suggested that the committee come to some agreement regarding overall theme and program. Sandra hoped the event would serve as a catalyst for getting businesses involved with Town events by broadcasting some of the

ways in which businesses can participate. Theo noted an earlier point of discussion as soliciting feedback and ideas on several Route 1 vacancies. Mindy felt it would be more important to hear from local businesses in an open-ended format, and to identify what the committee and Town can do to help. Bill agreed that it would be best to start by listening to the needs of the business owners. There was discussion on the need for a moderator and keynote speaker. One possibility discussed was Steve Woods, a local business owner who is well known and active with the Town.

#### **4. Project Updates**

Theo presented an updated list of economic development projects. There have been two updates:

- The Route 100 project will require extensive right-of-way acquisition work. As a joint project, the Town will work in tandem with MaineDOT to ensure the project moves forward as smoothly and consistently as possible. The project will go out to bid in July 2018, with construction to be completed in 2020.
- The CDC has completed its review of the David Chase contract zone application. The application now moves to the Planning Board before going to the Council for final review. The application is for a sizeable, largely residential development project on Route 100 near the Mountain Rd intersection.

#### **5. Other Business**

Andrew provided an update on the upcoming Very Merry Falmouth event. Scheduled for the first weekend in December, this event will serve as the official kickoff for the Falmouth Tercentennial. Many activities will be similar to those of the previous year, including the Happy Hour, road race, chili cookoff, etc. A key change this year is a potential coupon booklet featuring local businesses who have special offers. The booklets will be given away to attendees of the event as a way to encourage support of Falmouth businesses during the holiday season. Planning for the event is still underway, and Andrew and Kimberly Darling hope to have the committee involved with helping out, assuming there is interest in doing so.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20 at 4:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm.

Draft minutes prepared by Andrew Clark on August 21, 2017.