



Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 20, 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>	✓
Ethan Gamage	-				

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

1. Project Updates

The committee discussed the proposed Falmouth Center development. Pam said she was asked by a resident what the FEIC’s position on this project was. Chris mentioned that in Topsham the economic development committee there draft a resolution that endorsed the concept vision that had been proposed for redevelopment of the Crooker property. He felt that it was appropriate for the FEIC to express its opinion on the concept vision for the Falmouth Center project.

Andrea recommended that all FEIC members attend the 6/25 public forum on the project. She noted that the Council’s retreat was coming up and wondered what the FEIC members thought the Council needed to hear about the FEIC at that time. She also stated that she felt a lack of rigor with the committee.

Sandra commented that the FEIC could have a lot of influence. Andrea felt that the committee should be stricter about attendance by its members. She stated that the mission of the committee was really important, and that the committee could do a lot to help residents understand what business does for the Town and hope it contributes to its well-being.

Pam mentioned that in Yarmouth the economic development committee gets items prepared by staff for the committee to respond or react to. She wondered if that should be done in Falmouth as well. Sandra replied that this was an issue of leadership, and that if Pam felt this was needed she should request that.

Andrea felt that committee attendance should come first. She offered to make calls to each of the members to inquire about their interest.

Sandra stated that the Falmouth Center project was a singular project. She urged that an e-mail be sent to the committee members to tell them to go the 6/25 public forum and report out to the committee

what they heard, or, if they could not attend, review the project website and send an e-mail to report with their opinion. Pam stated that she as the committee chair would contact each of the committee members by phone.

Andrea felt that if the Falmouth Center project does not get approved, it would be bad for Falmouth. She felt that the community (developer, Town, and residents) needs to learn to collaborate as best we can do.

There was some discussion on one of the partners in the project, the current state of potholes on the Falmouth Shopping Center site, and the need for the taxes that this project would generate to help run the community's schools.

2. Next meeting

The next meeting will be July 11, 2018. (This was later changed to July 18.) The committee will discuss what to pass on to the Council for its retreat, its position on the Falmouth Center project, and the next Business Forum program. Theo was asked to distribute the goals from the Economic Development Strategy in a follow-up e-mail.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Draft minutes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, July 6, 2018