



# Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 19, 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>	✓
Brian Bakke	-			Meredith Sells <i>Staff</i>	-

Others attending: Anne Johnson, Summit Natural Gas

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm. Pam introduced Anne Johnson.

### 1. Review of Draft Minutes

The draft minutes of the December 5, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

### 2. Business Forum Planning

Theo distributed Meredith's update on the STEM forum and explained the plan for one on one outreach to specific STEM-related businesses. The committee liked the plan and approach. Theo mentioned that the forum could be the first step to possible business sponsorship of a STEM coordinator position at the School department. Sandra suggested that the School Board publicize sponsorship of the STEM forum and coordinator position by reaching out to parents of students who may be employed by those STEM companies. Those parents could then do internal outreach in their companies. She also felt that this effort was worthy of a Forecaster article. Pam requested that Meredith keep her informed of the outreach and planning activities. It was asked if the School Board knows of the pending forum. Theo said he did not know that. Sandra said that the School Board takes public comment at its meetings and that it would be worthwhile to address the Board on this. Pam will check out what the protocol is for that and when the next school board meeting is. It is January 7.

Theo distributed Kimberly's update on the Energy Efficiency forum. The committee liked the direction of it and supported reaching out to Efficiency Maine. It felt that a 1 ½ hour program was OK, especially if it exceeded 1 hour because of audience interest and questions.

### 3. Project Updates

Theo distributed Jay's memo on the Route 100 Construction Project. The project was awarded to Shaw Brothers. A pre-construction meeting will be held in early January after which a construction schedule will be known. Dimitri asked what lessons the Town learned about the Route 1 construction project

regarding keeping businesses and customers informed and keeping traffic flowing in the construction area. Theo explained that the Town will use its digital communication tools to provide as current construction information as possible, so people can plan around it. The committee felt that there were a lot of business complaints about the construction impact. Sandra stated that the website had been a great help as it informed businesses of the temporariness of work at their entrance, so they could inform their customers about it. Pam said that she had heard from people wondering why this work would not be done at night. Theo replied that MaineDOT had given permission to have some work done at night. He explained that as this is a State road, MaineDOT approval was required for specific construction hours, when both lanes needed to be open for traffic and had not approved a detour route. Theo said the best help that FEIC members could give is to encourage anyone to sign up to automatically get Route 100 construction updates.

Theo distributed the agenda notice for 12/20 Council meeting for the Falmouth Center project. He said that the notice gave a lot of good information about the project. He reviewed the draft TIF program that staff had prepared as one measure of economic impact of the project. There was a discussion about the traffic impact of the project. Sandra stated that the project fit totally within the Town's Comprehensive Plan. She encouraged long term thinking about the project and felt that the property would be developed sooner or later. Pam stated that it seemed many people were asking how the project affected them personally. She heard three issues: traffic, zoning, and water quality. Chris felt that traffic was a Planning Board issue, and not a Council issue. Sandra stated that the Council had a very considered discussion with MaineDOT staff on traffic and encouraged others to view a replay of the meeting. Chris felt the project had a representational issue as one of the developers did not have a good reputation. Theo mentioned that it was good for FEIC to stay up to date on the project, because at some point the Council would seek public comment on it.

Theo handed out a chart that showed residential growth since 2007 in Falmouth. He explained that this was part of the Growth and Density evaluation that LPAC is doing.

#### **4. Next meeting**

Dimitri stated that this was his last meeting with the FEIC as his term was up and he had decided not to renew it. He said he had enjoyed the experience. Pam thanked Dimitri for all his contributions to the committee.

Sandra stated that she was LPAC's representative and as that ends soon a new LPAC liaison would be appointed for FEIC.

Pam wondered if there were any applicants for the vacancy that had now been created. Theo will check on that.

The committee decided to a Doodle poll before setting the January meeting schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Draft minutes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, December 21, 2018