

# Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Present:

Pamela DiPietro-Hale <i>Chair</i>	√	William Lunt III	-	Janice De Lima <i>Council Liaison</i>	-
Chris Wasileski	-	Edward Pierce	-	Nathan Poore <i>Staff</i>	-
Brian Bakke	√	Mindy Schwartz	-	Theo Holtwijk <i>Staff</i>	√
Paul Bergkamp	√			Kimberly Darling <i>Staff</i>	√

Others attending: Maggie Fleming

Pam started the meeting at 4:30 PM. Everyone introduced themselves.

### 1. Review Draft Minutes of May 1 and 15, 2019 Meetings

The draft minutes of the May 1 and 15, 2019 meetings were tabled as there was no quorum.

### 2. Review draft Business Recycling Survey

Kimberly Darling, Energy and Sustainability Coordinator, said that she currently has two interns doing recycling field work. She plans to use them to conduct an in-person business recycling survey. She envisioned a series of interactive interviews. She handed out a draft survey. She said she would focus on Route 1 area businesses and start next week. The committee asked who in each company the interns would speak with. The example of a bank was raised where the trash removal is done by a cleaning service. It seemed that this may be quite typical in office environments. There was a concern expressed that recycling may be disposed of with trash if it is not clear what happens to it. It was suggested adding to the survey a question who takes care of trash removal. It was also suggested to have some statements that respondents could rate as to their importance to get a better idea of people's attitudes towards recycling. Theo suggested that respondents should be tapped for any ideas how recycling can be encouraged or enhanced. The Town's role in encouraging or regulating recycling was discussed. There was a discussion about composting. Kimberly said that the Town has a grant to expand it. She is looking for an additional drop off site for that. It was suggested that the Bucknam Road Fire Station may be good as people already drop off redeemable cans and bottles there. The committee also discussed how to promote the survey so a good response could be obtained.

### 3. Continue to discuss program, panel, date, and location for Fall 2019 FEIC Business Forum

The committee has not had more discussion on the fall 2019 forum. The targeted date of 9/26 has not yet been confirmed. Pam will follow up with Chris on that. Paul said that he had an idea that he wanted

to share with the committee. It pertained to having more discussion about where Falmouth wanted to go from a business perspective. He handed out a draft outline of the “Falmouth Business League” and said that this was just a concept. He reviewed the ideas in the handout. Pam thought that his suggestion for a forum topic like this was a great way to get such a conversation started. Paul said that he hoped it would raise the culture of engagement in Falmouth regarding business development. Pam asked if this effort would help to define the Town’s values in that regard. Paul said yes. Brian said that the idea of focusing on values was important as there currently is a divide in town and that “growth” was hot topic. Paul said that one view may be that Falmouth should only serve local needs and not be a Maine Mall North, for example. From his experience at the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC), there needed to be alignment on common values. The committee discussed this and agreed that there should be coordination with the Town Council on this as the Council is interested to increase community engagement. Theo mentioned the recent resolution that the Council adopted on that topic. The committee felt that Paul’s idea had the potential to be a topic for the Fall forum, but that more discussion by the FEIC and new Council Liaison Janice De Lima was needed. The committee targeted the July 3 and 17 meetings for that, in the hope that a specific work plan suggestion could be made to the Council in advance of its August 2019 retreat, where priorities and work assignments for the next 12 months would be established. Theo will get the exact date of the retreat (August 28, 2019).

The committee discussed committee attendance at meetings. Brian said that he would send an e-mail out to the group stating how important it was for people to attend FEIC meetings and let staff know if/when they cannot come. The committee agreed to continue with the two forum ideas for now (Business League and business start up issues) to see what may work best for the fall. The committee agreed that if the Council does not give its direction until August the Business Forum could be scheduled for October, rather than September, so that there would be enough planning time.

#### **4. Other Business**

Theo stated that the FEIC membership expansion from 7 to 9 people is working its way through the Council review. Next step is to conduct a public hearing, after that the Council can vote on it. If approved, then a call for additional members could go out. Residents would then have to apply and be interviewed by Councilors. After that the Council could act on Appointment Committee’s recommendations. The committee understood that it could be a while before new members will join the committee.

Pam asked if there were any business updates. The Committee discussed the new Irving Gas Station and store at Bucknam Road and Route 1. The committee recounted the Rosemont Market start. Theo mentioned that the last vacant lot at West Falmouth Crossing had been purchased by a local person. He encouraged committee members to subscribe to Council agendas, so they could be kept up to date of any agenda items of business interest. He will forward the Council’s resolution on community engagement.

#### **5. Next Meeting: July 3, 2019 4:30 PM**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Draft Minutes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, June 20, 2019