

Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Present:

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

Others Attending: Andrea Ferrante and Rebecca Hatfield

Pam started the meeting at 4:35 PM.

1. Establish Quorum

- Paul Bergkamp arrived at 4:46pm, establishing quorum.

2. Review Draft Minutes of July 3, 2019 Meeting

- After clarifying with Councilor De Lima, Nathan suggested amending the portion of the minutes at the top of page 4 to “Mindy asked where the Council stood on its resolution. Janice said that the new Council **had not discussed the execution of the resolution.**”
 - Pam motioned to amend the minutes, Bill moved, Chris seconded, Motion passed 4-0

3. Review of Meeting Materials

- Pam reviewed items from the July 3rd meeting.
 - Falmouth Business League
 - Councilor De Lima has been discussing the initiative with the other Councilors (how the League fits in with overall Economic Development Strategy)
 - Discussed prior efforts to form business associations
 - Pam left a voicemail with Chamber of Commerce President to fill her in
 - Pam stated that at the July 3rd meeting those present decided to move forward with the Falmouth Business League initiative
 - Councilor De Lima will present the initiative at the Council work retreat in August
 - Want to make sure that the League fits with FEIC charge and economic development strategy
 - Nathan stated that the committee should sent him language to include with the work plan documents
 - Decided to use Paul’s statement from page 2 of the July 3rd minutes, “Paul explained that the concept had three buckets. One was to have

businesses that align with the Town values. He said that the Council already has an initiative underway to articulate those values. Second, was to create a business network that could feed on itself through sharing of best business practices and dialogue. Third, expansion of businesses could be helped by retired businesspeople who could share tips on best practices” as the language

- Goal is to start implementing the League in the Fall
- League could act as a forum for bringing up issues and for talking with fellow business owners
 - Chris mentioned idea of a publication or email update
 - Additional idea of a dedicated website
- Town July mailer
 - Hitting mailboxes this week
 - Chris commented that paper mailings get attention especially in senior communities
- Theo discussed at past meetings that it is important for FEIC members to be aware of ongoing at the Council level
 - At the July 3rd meeting, committee members discussed having members attend Council meetings on a rotating basis but decided that this would be challenging after comparing calendars

4. Public Comment

- Andrea about the committee’s rules for public comment during meetings
 - Pam said that she and Theo had added a public comment period to the meeting agenda
 - Chris liked the idea that the public could comment at any time in the meeting
 - Andrea said this is how it had been in the past
 - Committee members agreed that open public comment was a good idea
 - Pam will announce public comment expectations at the beginning of all meetings moving forward

5. Council Liaison and Staff Report

- Councilor De Lima stated that regular Council meetings will be best time for Council Liaisons to report out from committee meetings
- At the July 8th Council Meeting, during the public hearing on the amendment to increase the FEIC membership, a member of the public asked whether the council was aware of what the committees were working on. Councilor De Lima stated that she responded that FEIC was following the Economic Development Strategy.
- Another item that came up at the last council meeting was whether there was a consistent structure for posting committee meeting agendas and minutes on the website?
 - Nathan stated that Town staff are looking into this issue and that the likely recommendation will be to have all committees adopt the Council meeting agenda/ minutes style
 - Committee members agreed that consistency was a good idea

- Councilor De Lima said that the Council will remind the public that committee meetings are open to the public. She also encouraged FEIC members to encourage those in their spheres to engage themselves.
- Discussion of Falmouth House of Pizza BP zone change request and Route 1 North Vision Plan
 - Councilor De Lima summarized the Council's response to the applicant at the July 3rd Council meeting--not a good time right now because the Council is preparing for the work plan retreat, suggested that the applicant come to FEIC meetings, additional issue of not having sidewalks in that area
 - Nathan added that the Falmouth House of Pizza applicant reached out to Town staff this week regarding interest in an ordinance by petition. Town staff encouraged the applicant to continue talking with business owners in the VC1 zone where restaurants are allowed and informed the applicant that the Route 1 North Vision Plan suggested that zoning should be amended to allow neighborhood restaurants on the west side.
 - Nathan said that the FEIC and/or the former members of the Route 1 North Committee could offer input to the Council if they consider moving forward with implementing aspects of the formerly accepted Route 1 North plan.
 - Committee members discussed pros and cons of different types of businesses that could come in if zoning was changed
 - Andrea discussed challenges of gauging what residents value regarding land use/zoning
- Nathan reminded committee members to subscribe to the Council agenda email alerts

6. Continue to Discuss Program, Panel, Date, and Location for Fall 2019 FEIC Business Forum(s) & Input for 2019 Council Retreat

- Paul asked when the Council work planning retreat agenda will be available for review.
 - Nathan informed him that the agenda would be reviewed at the August 12th Council meeting. The draft August 28th agenda will be posted to the Council on the August 12th 6:00 PM workshop meeting agenda.
- The Committee expressed an interest in being more involved with zoning amendments as it relates to business and economic development.
- Pam asked that the committee be prepared to make recommendations to the Council to consider at their work planning retreat. Positions on moving forward with the Route 1 North vision, creating a business league, implementing more of the economic development plan, finishing the Route 100 zoning, and other matters would be part of the discussion on August 7th.
- Pam also asked the committee to be prepared to finalize such recommendations and positions at its August 21st meeting.
 - The Committee will produce a memo at the August 21st meeting to present to the Council one week in advance of their work planning retreat.

7. Other Business

8. Set Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

- Pam stated that the next FEIC meeting is on August 7th.

9. Adjourn

- Bill Lunt moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:07PM.

Draft minutes prepared by Marguerite Fleming, July 18, 2019.