

Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 21, 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: John Winslow, Donna Little, Kimberly Darling

Pam started the meeting at 4:30PM.

1. Quorum

A quorum was established. Theo stated that Paul could not make it, but had sent in a note with some comments. He would cite that note where appropriate.

2. Review Draft Minutes of July 31, 2019 Meeting

Bill motioned to approve the minutes of 7/31/2019 and Brian seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review of Meeting Materials

Theo explained that the packet included a draft memo for the Council and a public notice regarding Blackstrap Road and Rt 100.

4. Public Comment

John Winslow said that represented business owners on Route 100 north of Mountain Road. He spoke to the business impact of the upcoming Route 100 closing. He felt that the Town should help people who have businesses there. He cited an example of a landscaping company that was impacted and wondered if its trucks and staff could be temporarily relocated. He felt that there should have been more notice of this closure, so businesses could prepare for it. He felt that if a precise date was not yet known, it could be plugged in later.

Nathan replied that there was strategic communications plan in place for the Route 100 closure. He agreed that it would have been good if there had been more notice, but that this was a timing issue. He stated that other options, instead of a road closure, were not possible. John commented that the size of the culvert to be installed was driven by legislative action.

Pam wondered if one-way traffic may be possible. Nathan explained why this was not possible. He said that a ½ page ad would appear in The Forecaster asking people to continue patronizing the affected businesses. He said that a mailing will go out to 1,600 addresses.

John urged that the Town think ahead in the future. Bill stated that he understood John when he commented on having at least a head's up, even if there was no specific date yet. He has encountered the same with the Portland Water District.

Donna Little asked where there were no detours. Theo explained that there were detours planned as part of the road closure, but that MaineDOT had not approved a detour plan for the overall project as it had concluded that that would lead to more congestion than the alternating one way traffic that was now being used. Nathan said that an awareness of detour options was important and that a link had been set up for people to see a map for that. He agreed with John about giving more notice.

Donna suggested that a sign be installed saying what project this was and to apologize for the inconvenience. She felt that such a sign would show hospitality, that the Town is doing the best it can and that it shows kindness.

Bill Lunt asked about committee attendance and what happened if someone missed meetings because of a medical issue. Nathan stated that the current rules do not allow for that, but that the Council will reappoint all those who have missed too many meetings. The expected the Council to look at the committee attendance language. Chris asked how many people that involved. Nathan said 5-6 people.

5. Council Liaison Report

There was no Council Liaison Report.

6. Review of Final Input for 2019 Council Retreat

Theo stated that he put the committee's direction from the last meeting in the form of a memo to the Town Council. Pam said that the memo should come from the entire committee. Theo suggested putting it on the committee's stationary that showed all members' names.

Chris said that the memo looked great and that it provided a structure for the Business League and was focused. Brian and Bill stated that they were OK with the memo as written as well. Chris made a motion and Brian seconded it to send this memo from entire FEIC to the Council. It was approved unanimously.

7. Review of Business Recycling Survey results

Kimberly stated that she had two interns who tagged recycling bins in four Falmouth neighborhoods for ten weeks, which represented about 15% of Falmouth. Those interns also conducted a business recycling survey to find out what barriers exists to recycling. She distributed a handout with the survey responses and noted that there were several themes:

- If a company does not have a recycling program, employees tend to take the recycling home.

- In some cases, landlords do not provide for a recycling option.
- Banks tend to shred their paper recycling which is done by a third party.
- A lot of companies do redemption of returnables.
- Cardboard recycling is the go-to system for recycling.

Kimberly noted that it is key for trash and recycling to be separated. But that in many instances there are no systems in place for that.

Pam asked about the silver bullet containers. Kimberly said that these were open to the business community. She noted that one had been located on Bucknam Road, but that it was a question if this was public or a private responsibility. She suggested that regulations may be needed to promote more recycling.

Chris brought up the reuse of Styrofoam by the UPS store, which was halted when there was a new owner. Kimberly said that Styrofoam cannot be recycled.

Pam wondered why the silver bullet at the fire station was removed. There was a lot a contamination with non-recyclables and became a hazard to operate.

Kimberly stated that Falmouth has a low contamination rate with household recycling of 7%. She had made some 3D posters to educate people on what can and cannot be recycled. He felt that the Falmouth community gets it. Bill brought up an example of recycling contamination. Kimberly said that the comingling of recycling requires sorting by EcoMaine.

Pam noted that some communities are eliminating their recycling programs =due to cost and felt that was short sighted.

Chris mentioned green certification of businesses that do recycling as a carrot for them. He said the benefit for a business is that it reduces the tipping charge. Kimberly said that a dumpster pickup is not an incentive as those get picked up on a scheduled basis whether they are full or not. She mentioned that Falmouth is baling the cardboard it gets.

Chris mentioned that OceanView when it does demolitions, contacts other businesses if they are interested in any demo materials as donations, such as Habitat's ReStore. He wondered if that could be part of the Town's demo permit program protocol.

As next steps, Kimberly said, Mindy had offered to canvass Gray Road area businesses, since the survey only covered Route 1. She felt there was no rush with that. She will also share the survey results with REAC so that it understands what is going on.

Bill felt that this effort connected to the Business League idea since it was about the sharing of resources.

There was a discussion about the composting businesses such as Garbage to Garden and We Compost It. Kimberly said that was interested to find a location for a composting kiosk on Route 1. Waldo's was a suggested location.

8. Other Business

Theo gave the committee an update on the Blackstrap Road project and the upcoming Public Forum for that. The flyer that was being mailed also included information about the upcoming Route 100 road closure.

Theo read the remainder of Paul's message. There was a question if participating in committee meetings counted towards attendance and if members could vote on issues that way. There was interest to have this be an OK method of participation. Theo suggested that the committee wait to see what direction the Council may provide on that. It was again stated that any member who had missed too many meetings would be reappointed at the next Council meeting.

Bill noted the passing of Falmouth businessman Fred Chase. Fred has done a lot for Falmouth and will be missed by all.

9. Set Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

The next meetings are scheduled for September 4 and 18, 2019. The agenda will be a verbal update on the results from the Council Retreat.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 PM.

Draft meeting minutes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, August 29, 2019