

**Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 20, 2019**

Present:

Pamela DiPietro- Hale, <i>Chair</i>	-	Kevin Moss	✓	Marguerite Fleming, <i>Staff</i>	✓
Chris Wasileski, <i>Vice Chair</i>	✓	Mindy Schwartz	-	Theo Holtwijk, <i>Staff</i>	✓
Paul Bergkamp	✓	Ozan Tüzmen	✓	Nathan Poore, <i>Staff</i>	-
William Lunt, III	✓	Nicholas Weightman	✓	Janice De Lima, <i>Council Liaison</i>	-

Others Attending: -

Chris started the meeting at 4:34 pm.

1. Establish Quorum & Introduction of Members

- Quorum was established.
- Committee members introduced themselves.
- Theo said that Brian Bakke resigned due to his changing work load and schedule.

2. Review Draft Minutes of October 2 and 16, 2019

- Bill motioned to approve the two sets of draft minutes; Paul seconded.
Motion carried unanimously with abstention of the three new members.

3. Review of Meeting Materials

- Chris reviewed the meeting packet which included binders for the three new members, the draft minutes, the Falmouth Business League concept documents, the committee member business leader interview assignments, and an update email from Pam DiPietro-Hale.

4. Public Comment

- No members of the public were present.

5. Update on Falmouth Business League Outreach

- Chris provided background information for the new members on the Falmouth Business League concept and work that had been completed so far towards setting up feedback interviews with business leaders.
- Theo reviewed the Falmouth Business League concept document.
- Committee members provided updates on their interviews with business leaders.
 - Chris said that he had scheduled interviews with Dava Davin and Steve Woods and was waiting to hear back from others and would follow up with them.

- Paul said that he met with around ten of his selected interviewees. He generally received positive feedback about wanting to bring business leaders together, but the people he interviewed wanted to make sure that the League was not overlapping with the Chamber. He also received positive feedback surrounding the goal of promoting mentoring, shadowing and volunteering, however, the people he spoke with wanted to confirm who would be leading the coordination.
- Bill said that he received positive feedback about the League, but that the people he interviewed expressed concern that the League would be another piece of Town government. They expressed a desire for the League to be run by business leaders. They wanted business leaders to be able to express themselves without Town staff present. The people he interviewed said that they did not have a problem with having a FEIC liaison there, but that the liaison should not attend every meeting. They did want to be able to relay information back to the Town if they needed assistance on an issue.
- Pam said in her email that she has been trying to reach out to the Chamber president to discuss the League concept but has been unsuccessful. She plans to reach out to the Vice President. The main message that she received from the branch managers that she interviewed was the question of how the League would be different from the Chamber. Branch managers said that the League could be an opportunity for businesses who could not afford to join the Chamber to engage with other businesses.
- Chris said that it sounded like the question of how the League would differ from the Chamber is the biggest issue. Paul felt that the League would incorporate a Town business element that is not included in the Chamber. Chris asked how the members felt about possibly partnering with the Chamber or if members still wanted to move forward with the League acting as a separate entity?
 - Theo suggested that FEIC members may want to try to connect with some of the Chamber officers to hear their feedback. Comparing the initiatives of the League with the Chamber's initiatives might help narrow the focus of the League's initiatives.
 - The Committee thought this was a good idea and selected various board members to reach out to.
- Committee members discussed how the League could be different from the Chamber in terms of how business leaders could benefit.
 - They discussed the issue of business leaders wanting the League to be separate from the Town.
 - Chris suggested that the FEIC could serve as the liaison between the League and the Town. He also suggested that the League gatherings could be less formal than those of the Chamber.
- Bill suggested bringing the business leaders who were interviewed to the table as a focus group for the League.
- Paul said that the feedback he heard was that people were more interested in initiatives than in a committee with meetings. He said that school and the library were interested. The library expressed interest in hosting business forums.

- Committee members discussed how the League would be governed.
- Ozan suggested that the League could have a listserv or other efficient method for members to communicate digitally.

6. Other Businesses

- Theo said that there will be a public forum on the West Falmouth Crossing Development on December 3 at 7 pm at Falmouth Elementary School.
- There will also be a public forum on the Intersections of Route 88 and Johnson Road and Route 88 and Depot Road on December 11 at 7 pm Falmouth Elementary School.

7. Set Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2019.

8. Adjourn

- Chris motioned to adjourn; Bill seconded. The motioned carried unanimously.
- The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Draft meeting minutes prepared by Marguerite Fleming, November 25, 2019.