

**Town of Boscawen
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 5th, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Barbara Randall—Chair; John Porter—Vice Chair; Sean Goldman; Mason Donovan—Alternate; Lorrie Carey—Ex-Officio

Members Excused: Jacob Martin & Adele Sanborn

Members Absent: Tom Laliberte

Staff Present: Kellee Easler—Planning & Community Development Director

Guests Present: Vincent Pagano—Central NH Regional Planning Commission; Don Moyer—Friends of the Northern Rail Trail & Lindy Heim – Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

Chair Randall opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

PCD Director Easler completed roll call.

Chair Randall made Mr. Donovan a full member for the meeting.

Minutes:

Ex-Officio Carey requested one change: Line 62-Change the punctuation to a “?” after “same”.

Mr. Donovan motioned to accept the August 1st, 2023 draft minutes as amended. Seconded by Ex-Officio Carey. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business:

Concord Makerspace Update: Chair Randall said Concord Makerspace hosted the EDC on April 4th, but at the time they didn’t have all their equipment set up. They will be hosting an Open House to showcase their new equipment on September 9th from 10am-3pm and extended the invitation to the members of the EDC.

New Business:

1st Annual Pumpkin Ride & Walk Proposal: Mr. Donovan said the Economic Development Fair that was originally planned for October 14th failed to take place this year, but there were several vendors that were still interested in attending an EDC event. Mr. Donovan thought having an activity at the Rail Trail was a great way to showcase this community asset that is currently underutilized. Mr. Donovan thought this would also be a great way to bring attention down to the

Commercial Street area, and to provide exposure to some of the hidden gems in Boscawen. He said it would be great to have individuals or teams participate in a Bike Ride, but the main show would be a walk of Boscawen's portion of the Rail Trail. Mr. Donovan suggested having children dress up in their Halloween costumes to add a fun Halloween element. Another idea could be to have kids paint a pumpkin at Twigg's and then line the Rail Trail with those pumpkins. Mr. Donovan created a list of tasks to complete if the proposal was well received. Mr. Moyer informed the EDC that the Right of Way to the Rail Trail is owned by the Department of Transportation, and the Bureau of Trails is responsible for the maintenance. He said an event like this would require a Special Use Permit, which would require a \$100-\$150 application fee. A Certificate of Insurance would also be required. Mr. Moyer offered to help fill out the permit application. He anticipated about 2 weeks to have the application processed and accepted. Ex-Officio Carey said about 8 years ago the Boscawen Elementary School PTA and Twigg's had a scarecrow building activity. This event ended up having around 40 families participate and was very well received. She suggested involving the PTA to get more families to participate in the Pumpkin Ride and Walk. The trail could be lined with scarecrows for the event. She suggested launching the event from Jamie Welch field. Ex-Officio Carey said she still had the documents and templates from this event and will try to find them. Ms. Heim asked if Mr. Donovan had any thoughts about keeping the bikers and walkers separated. Mr. Donovan proposed the bike ride start around 8am, and the walk start around 11am. He said he'd like to minimize the amount of bike traffic during the walk. Chair Randall said the 2nd Annual Police vs. Fire Softball Game was scheduled for the same day at 4pm. Ex-Officio Carey suggested providing some Richardson's products around 2pm. Mr. Moyer said if large numbers are expected, the gates should be opened. Ms. Heim said the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail has a booth they could set up. Last year, the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail gave the state \$110,000 to help them purchase .6 miles of abandoned railway. The state now owns to the south end of the Hannah Dustin Island. Last fall, \$45,000 was given to extend the trail to the north face of the Route 4 overpass. This spring they submitted a \$75,000 grant for further expansion and will find out in October if it was awarded. The vision for the rail trail system statewide would be to connect from the Massachusetts border to the Vermont border which equals 115 miles. As of right now there are delays in Concord and one or two other areas acquiring their sections to complete this. There was a new kiosk placed on Depot Street with one side dedicated to the Rail Trail system and the other will be for Boscawen's use. Mr. Donovan asked how long Boscawen's section of the Rail Trail was. Mr. Moyer said roughly 4 miles.

Chair Randall motioned to approve the 1st Annual Pumpkin Ride and Walk Proposal. Seconded by Mr. Donovan. All in favor. None opposed.

Pending tasks:

- Mr. Moyer will provide contact information for the Special Event Permit and an example of the Certificate of Insurance required. PCD Director Easler will ask Town Administrator Katie Phelps to help with this task.
- Chair Randall will coordinate with the BES PTA.
- Ex-Officio Carey will look for the PTA templates from the scarecrow activity.
- PCD Director Easler will provide information about the Merrimack County Boat Launch Pavilion.

- PCD Director Easler will send out a timeline created by Steve Green in 2013 that contains information about the rail trail.
- PCD Director Easler will handle advertising on the King Street sign, Town website, and official Town of Boscawen Facebook page.
- Mr. Donovan will post an advertisement to the unofficial Boscawen Facebook pages.
- Ex-Officio Carey will contact the Hippo and Newsvine newspaper advertisement.
- Mr. Donovan will draft an agenda and map for the event.
- Ex-Officio Carey will create event flyers.
- PCD Director will discuss trash collection with Public Works Director Hollins.
- Mr. Moyer and Ms. Heim will ask their Board of Directors about a Bike Repair Workshop.
- Chair Randall will ask Martha Crete if she can donate hay for a photo stop.
- Ex-Officio Carey will reach out to Elaine Clow at the Historical Society.
- Mr. Goldman will be the point of contact for the biker portion.
- Mr. Pagano will contact vendors for participation.
- Vice Chair Porter will ask Josh Marshall if he'd like to sell pumpkins at the event.
- Mr. Donovan will reach out to Richardson's.
- Chair Randall will reach out to Mrs. Adele Sanborn to ask if she can participate.
- Mr. Moyer and Ms. Heim will add the event to their newsletter.

Other Business:

2nd Annual Police vs. Fire Softball Game: Chair Randall informed the EDC the 2nd Annual Police vs. Fire Softball Game will be October 14th from 4-6pm.

Planning Board Visioning Session for Commercial Street w/CNHRPC: PCD Director Easler reminded the EDC of the Planning Board Visioning Session at 1pm on September 9th. She encouraged the members to attend to help with some ideas for revitalizing the Commercial Street area. Chair Randall said she hoped everyone would be able to make it, and if not, to send any ideas they may have to Central NH Regional Planning Commission because they have asked for input from the EDC. The walk will begin at the Hannah Dustin Park and Ride, go down to the Hannah Dustin Island, and then through Commercial Street. PCD Director Easler does not expect the walk to be longer than an hour, but it will depend on how many people attend. Mr. Moyer will also be in attendance to talk about the Rail Trail. Information was provided on a pamphlet created by Matt Taylor of CNHRPC.

Police Department Movie Night: The movie night will be September 22nd at 6pm at the Municipal Complex.

Chair Randall motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Vice Chair Porter. All in favor. None opposed.

The next meeting will be held on October 3rd, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Kara Gallagher.