

**Town of Boscawen
Economic Development
Municipal Building
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 1, 2021 at 5:30 PM**

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

Mike Tardiff, Executive Director —Central NH Regional Planning Commission

Excused: Caroletta Alicea; Adele Sanborn; Kellee Jo Easler—Planning & Community Development Director

Staff Present: Kearsten O'Brien— Deputy Planning & Community Development Director

Chair Donovan opened the meeting at 5:48 P.M.

Vice Chair Randall motioned to accept the minutes, Ms. Carey seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

Ms. Carey will follow up on the rail trail kiosk quote with Sam Niebling. She stated that she was curious where the funds will be coming from for this project, and Deputy PCD Director O'Brien will follow up. Mr. Porter made a \$1,000 donation to the kiosk.

Chair Mason stated that he had reached out to Cumberland Farms and Kapellis (also known as Dimitris) on King Street. Dimitris had been sold as a private sale, and more information will follow. Chair Mason inquired about the empty storefront next to Cumberland Farms, and has yet to hear back from anyone.

Chair Mason reviewed the Village District Sign Ordinance, and noted that it does not prohibit neon signs or signs on utility poles. Chair Mason said that the business listing is important for two reasons: you get a sense of what commercial properties contribute to the tax base in town and what opportunities are available. Mr. Porter asked if the agricultural listings should be provided on this list as well. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien stated that this rack card is included with the Welcome to Boscawen packets that new residents receive when they register their car, along with a listing of businesses in town. Mr. Porter also said that due to several businesses leaving town, he has lost half of his pepper sales and it shows how fragile the local economy is. Mr. Porter will speak to the owner of Hackleboro.

Ms. Carey stated that Not Necessarily Antiques is currently going through Probate, so this location will need a follow up. Christy Goodhue building is under contract currently. Kyle Poirier has relocated his landscaping business to Concord, yet Dale Matthews is still doing equipment rentals at 161 King Street. Ms. Carey stated that the temporary sign ordinance should be edited. A discussion ensued concerning utility poles and if they are private or public property.

Deputy PCD Director O'Brien said that suggestions regarding the sign ordinance can be brought forward to the Planning Board by the EDC.

Vice Chair Randall spoke with Mike Drewry of 183 King Street and will continue a discussion with him. Eclectic Whim is another business she will plan to contact. She also stated that there is a business on Jarado Way called Natural playground that should be added to the list.

Executive Director Tardiff shared what businesses fall into the Economic Revitalization Zone (ERZ) and what locations would be in the 79E zone. Many new businesses will be located in these areas. Chair Mason inquired about the sale of the old town library, and Ms. Carey responded that there will be some deed restrictions to this sale and the money will be returned to the Town to be used towards the current library. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien spoke about the abatement for Alan's Restaurant, this needs to be voted on by the Economic Development Committee to present to the Select Board regarding their recommendation.

Ms. Carey motioned to allow Chair Mason to recommend the abatement for Alan's Restaurant. Vice Chair Randall seconded. All in favor. None Opposed.

Ms. Carey stated that the Economic Development Committee is in favor of 79E, and would like to add an article in the news vine in January for this. Executive Director Tardiff said that these often get misconstrued at Town Meeting, so education beforehand is important.

The next meeting will be held on December 6, 2021.

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

Respectfully submitted by Crystal Tuttle.