

CASTLETON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 17, 2022

**Castleton Town Office
and ZOOM**

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/1fwhgb1jvXoGYoziVI_VVR0cD5zBaCh7n6Tp30F6MbGNMD0H3DYJO4IKA18G_0lv.gIzkoWhxQPSPN2-8

Passcode: 8*D0#dR*

Those in attendance included: Mary McIntyre, Zack Holzworth, Petrina teRiele, Joseph Bruno, Christina Ryan, Richard Combs, Martha Clifford, Tim Munks (arrived at 7pm), Committee Members

Others present by Zoom included: Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary

M. McIntyre called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Minutes of Meeting – February 17, 2022

R. Holzworth made a motion to approve the minutes of February 17, 2022 as presented. R. Combs seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Approval of Agenda

R. Combs made a motion to approve the agenda with correction to the date of the minutes being approved to February 17, 2022. Z. Holzworth seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

Selectboard Updates – Dick Combs

R. Combs stated they have a new selectboard member, Mary Lee Harris, who replaced Michael Holden. R. Combs also gave an update on purchase of the CVS building and the town of Hubbardton, cost of maintaining and upkeep. Meeting being set up with the Town of Hubbardton with two Castleton and two Hubbardton Selectboard members to determine if the building will be used or disposed of.

R. Combs explained the sidewalk project is moving along, the scoping study has been done and choices will be made as to what options will be used on the proposal.

Discussion on the mapping program that was presented to the Board of Selectmen for purchase, the overlays and the uses of the information and data. Hope to use the ARPA funds for the purchase of the programs and overlays.

It was stated that the Lake Bomoseen chemical issue will be the subject of a public hearing that will be held in April by the Board of Selectmen.

Joe Bruno explained what the Planning commission is doing to update the zoning regulations. Are going through the regulations page by page. There has been a lot that has changed since they were originally adopted in 1986. Discussion on the solar array that is being proposed, what is being proposed and how it

applies to the regulations. A public hearing is being scheduled. Also, discussion on the Sand Hill Road proposal of housing, which is anticipated will be presented on a site plan in late Spring.

Also questions of undeveloped land or run-down properties that could be used for something else and if revenue from AirBnB.

Recreation Board Update -Martha Clifford

M. Clifford stated the Recreation budget was passed, which included the full-time director. They hope to advertise soon and get someone in the position before the end of the fiscal year if the salary can be covered in the current budget for that short time. The Town will be joining the Rutland County Little League, which has many benefits, as the county team will hire umpires and schedule games, etc. Half of the games will take place in Rutland, half in Castleton. They will also help with field maintenance.

They have two new Rec Committee members, Matt Ryan and Marley Rosario.

They have applied for a \$36,000 grant for the beach program, a 6-week summer camp that will be Monday through Friday 8-4.

Further discussion on the hiring process and the value of a search committee for the full-time director.

Directory/Town Website Update – Christina Ryan

C. Ryan not much progress on business, she is aware that T. Molnar has been suggested subcommittee to meet with town and flush out the non-active listings, but she would like to build out the pages and then give the town access to update the content and have basic information. She feels a subcommittee would drag out the process and she wants to wrap it up rather than make a longer process. They could provide tools or a site for businesses to easily opt in or out of the listing. J. Bruno indicated the Town hired Crane Associates to complete an inventory, which will be looked into.

C. Ryan and M. McIntyre have made inquiries about creating a website and it appears the cost will be around \$5,000. It would be a things to do or tourism site, separate from the Town website. Poultney and Pittsford have done this with success. This idea will be presented to the Selectboard for their approval, which would need to be done before end of fiscal year if they want to use their current budgeted funds and stipends for the expense.

Discussion on the Chamber of Commerce of Fair Haven, and it believed to be inactive. July Welch is head of the Poultney Chamber if anyone would like to ask any questions of her. Sarah Pelkey is also a source from Poultney.

Recommendation Templates – Petrina teRiele

M. McIntyre stated she attended the Select board meeting on Monday, where this board's letter was used to recommend the town take high speed internet a spending priority when considering the allocation of the ARPA funds. The only suggestion the selectboard had was that they need an amount, which will be worked on and provided to them.

Broadband Update – Tim Munks

T. Munks stated originally it was belied that each town would be responsible for the cost to establish broadband to remote areas. It now appears that some providers, such as Comcast will pay for the ‘last mile’, which will change the budget needs and requests. The Town will own the cable that is installed on main roads, other companies will pay to bring it to the homeowner. The Infrastructure Bill will bring more money for the broadband project for all of Castleton, but companies paying for some of the last mile will be helpful in the final costs

Recreation Property Exploration – Zack Holzworth & Mike Jones

J. Rehlen is not willing to sell or donate the property on the east end of Main Street but may consider a lease and needed to speak with his family members. Z Holzworth stated he would touch base with Mr. Rehlen again in a few weeks. It was felt the board should investigate how it was zoned as they may enhance our negotiations with him.

Welcome Wagon – Mary McIntyre

More research and leg work has been done. M. McIntyre provided background information regarding the SWOT Analysis from 2020 indicating Castleton was not welcoming to new residents. Discussion on options of what to put into a welcome package for new residents, with a cost of \$.22 per bag with an additional \$1 for a sticker, which would hold coupons and information about town services, etc. M. Jones has been asked about including a beach sticker or transfer station permit, along with a suggestion of a QR code being scanned to access information. Discussion on costs and what else could be included in the offering. It was stated that Beth Murphy is interested in joining CDERAC and has other ideas as well.

New Business

M. McIntyre stated they still have the business maps to update, and they are still working on the business directory so was put on back burner.

Adjourn

Z. Holzworth made a motion to adjourn at 8:25pm. R. Combs seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary