**CASTLETON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, April 21, 2022**

**Castleton Town Office**

**and ZOOM**

Meeting Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/f2xf-dESwqEIqHfdQKd-6OqwHnZPJlplY4-q1mIQLupB_FNRAvTdE_31qrabp58k.Ti49tH1aSQc8_j_g>

Access Passcode: y^LK0=8r

**Those in attendance included:** Mary McIntyre, Zack Holzworth, Petrina teRiele, Joseph Bruno, Christina Ryan, Martha Clifford, Committee Members, Beth Murphy, Guest, Robert Spaulding arrived at 7:20pm

Others present by Zoom included: Tim Munks, Christina Ryan, Committee Members, Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary

M. McIntyre called the meeting to order at 6:37 P.M.

M. McIntyre welcomed a guest at this time, Beth Murphy, she is interested in joining the committee, is sitting in to see what they do and how it works.

**Minutes of Meeting – March 17, 2022**

R. Holzworth made a motion to approve the minutes of March 17, 2022 as presented. R. Combs seconded.

Page 1 – In heading, change February to March

Page 1 – First line of Minutes of Meeting, change R. Holzworth to Z. Holzworth

Page 2 - first line of Directory/Town Website Update, been should be deleted

Page 2 – second paragraph of Directory/Town Website Update this will success should be changed to this with success

Page 2 – Last paragraph of Directory/Town Website Update, July should be changed to Judy

Page 2 – Last paragraph on page, first sentence, sued should be changed to used, same sentence take should be changed to make

Page 3 – first line, belied should be changed to believed, same paragraph, last sentence, being should be changed to bring and a period added at the end of the sentence.

All voted in favor. So voted.

**Approval of Agenda**

J. Bruno made a motion to approve the agenda. Z. Holzworth seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

**Selectboard Updates – Dick Combs**

Is not present at this time.

**Recreation Board Update** -**Martha Clifford**

M. Clifford stated they are planning to use the elementary school fields for some of games/practices and splitting Dewey field for baseball and softball. Gearing up for beach opening, may be some structural repair for roof to replace. Phase 2 of fence installation also getting started. The funds for repairs will come from the reserve fund. The beach will open Memorial Day, swim lesson sign up is going on now.

M. McIntyre asked about the grant for the summer program. M. Clifford was supposed to hear today but has not gotten any word. If denied, will have a big impact on summer camp. $18,000 is about half of what is needed. They will probably end up charging more for kids to go if the grant is not approved. It was $60 a week last year for a six-week program, if the grant is denied, it will be between $100-125.

M. McIntyre asked if there was time for possible fund raising, M. Clifford stated they have not gotten that far yet. Discussion on the number of children that normally attend, cost and possible ways of getting more funds if the grant is denied. J. Bruno asked if the school district has ever been asked if they could donate, they have had a large surplus in their budget the past few years, maybe they would have something to contribute. M. Clifford stated she would explore that possibility.

J. Bruno asked when Green Up Day is scheduled. It was stated it is May 7. Discussion on schedules and what areas are signed up for. J. Bruno suggested the school kids be brought into the discussion at some point; junior high kids used to do green up all the time.

**Directory/Town Website Update – Christina Ryan**

C. Ryan stated she has added the business pages, including a PDF download of business directory to the Town website. M. McIntyre stated she had navigated the page and felt it works very well. C. Ryan is also putting together a proposal for the tourism website they talked about, and they will be presenting that to the Selectboard on Monday, explaining what it would entail and benefits and costs. M. McIntyre has a bit of concern that Selectboard will see C. Ryan working on it as a conflict as she is on this committee. Most likely her quote for the work will be quite a bit lower than an outside organization, but it may not be comparing apples to apples either since she has done the majority of the background work already. It would make sense for her to do it but will have to see what the Selectboard’s thoughts are. P. teRiele agreed that C. Ryan has done so much on it already and is so familiar with it, that she should be the one to do the work. J. Bruno felt this committee should make a recommendation to that affect.

**Welcome Wagon – Mary McIntyre**

M. McIntyre stated she sent an email out with details of what they are considering. She is recommending a yellow bag and Town of Castleton logo sticker on the bags, it would be a much lower cost than having the bags printed. The highest out of pocket cost would be $146.34 for bags and stickers. They would include brochures from the library, women’s club, the town clerk, and a gift, like 1-2 discount coupons from various businesses in town. They will assemble them as needed when a new resident moves into town and can get the word out via the Town Clerk and Realtors. J. Bruno asked if Greenscreen Graphics was contacted to print the bags. M. McIntyre felt it would be difficult to beat the price of the bags and stickers, less than $.50 each total. It would come out of the administrative service or postage/printing and binding. Discussion on budget surplus and members contributing their stipends for service on the committee by not taking them.

J. Bruno made a motion to take out up to $150 from budget for bags and stickers for the welcome wagon. Z. Holzworth seconded. All voted in favor. So voted.

**Broadband Update – Tim Munks**

T. Munks shared his screen with the committee, a document from Otter Creek regarding the ARPA funds for the broadband project. He has sent out requests for proposals to three ISP’s (internet service providers), once those proposals come in, they can see what they can use the funds for. He will email this document to the committee members after the meeting for their review. He has also shared this with the Town Manager. He has offered to serve as the Town rep to OCCUD (Otter Creek Communications Union District).

**Recreation Property Exploration – Zack Holzworth**

Z. Holzworth and Town Manager met with John Rehlen last evening at the property on the east end of town. J. Rehlen will come up with an agreement after working on it with his wife and son and will submit it to the Board of Selectmen. He mentioned being agreeable to a 5–10 year lease, which will have to be negotiated and is interested in leasing for a dog park or park in general. Z. Holzworth stated it will take a lot of work to clear it, had brief discussion at meeting on approach to cleaning up the property. Much overgrowth and trees to be taken care of. May need to install a fence to keep people/pets/children from railroad tracks, but would have to be all the way around, not just on that boundary. Rehlen’s do want to be a part of the process as it is developed. C. Ryan felt the public should also be included to get some excitement going on the project and input of what to have there. Could also consider local business sponsorships, signage, benches or picnic tables, etc.

**By-Laws Update**

M. McIntyre stated the Town Manager has mentioned a number of times about expanding the number of members of this committee. She is perplexed by the idea, reviewed the short history of the committee, and in reading the by-laws, it indicates the committee can have at least 9 members. It has been suggested by the Town Manager to re-write the bylaws to increase the numbers of members. P. teRiele has reviewed and made some suggestions. Currently included is a member of the Board of Selectmen, Planning Commission, 4 town residents, (2-1yr and 2-2 yr) and 3 business members. It is not clear who is in what positions and what’s remaining and vacant. J. Bruno stated CEDRAC could also have alternates and stated that there is such a thing as too many members, not much gets done. Currently have 9 members. Also, it is not clear how many consecutive terms can be served. M. McIntyre asked committee members to review and provide input for further modification to the by-laws

**July 4th Celebration**

M. McIntyre stated a committee met the week before last, are meeting again next Thursday. The first one was as a productive meeting, they have 7 or so members on the committee. They decided to have the festivities on July 3, (Poultney is doing the 4th, didn’t want to do same date) to include fireworks on the lake, with rain date for parade only on the 4th but fireworks would not be held until winter celebration in December, at Castleton University. Discussion on ideas for activities for the day’s events. Oldest resident, youngest resident, mystery member similar to Mr. Jack ‘O Lantern at the Rutland Halloween Parade where participants guess who the mystery person is, etc.

**New Business**

M. McIntyre will need to include Planning Commission updates on the agenda for next meeting.

J. Bruno stated the Planning Commission has addressed the solar field being proposed at Exit 5. He has attended the Rutland Regional Planning Commission meeting this week and explained what was discussed at that meeting. The RRPC suggested that they get letters from committees in town that are opposed to the project, and RRPC will provide support, which they cannot do without town documentation of being against it. He is going to go to the Board of Selectmen Monday of next week and will also address at the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday. He hopes to get enough together to take to the RRPC meeting, and they will write a letter to try to stop it. It doesn’t follow the town plan at all, the area is industrial zone, not agricultural or residential, which is part of the problem. M. McIntyre suggested an email when information is ready. J. Bruno agreed.

M. McIntyre stated the business maps, are still available. They will have the welcome center distribute them for another year since there are some still left at $96.20 to do that.

M. McIntyre stated there are two restaurants in town that are vacant. One in Hydeville and Paul’s Pizza is for sale. She felt it would help to get them replaced. Any interest, get in touch with owners and put on the Town’s Facebook page? J. Bruno questioned legalities of it, if real estate agents are involved, would need to go through them. Z. Holzworth will make that contact. C. Ryan suggested a media article, Castleton Open Is For Business.

**Adjourn**

J. Bruno made a motion to adjourn at 8:19pm. Z. Holzworth seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary