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

**Thursday, May 19, 2022**

 **Castleton Town Office**

**and ZOOM**

Meeting Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/NyZxb9u0B0IWjA2MvDiRlIEufxHrWoiv3V61f8Kq_BUQvEwoxOC_SQAzcng8Jxo.9im8eDWZuUQnBCVc>

Passcode: dZa4E=a8

**Those in attendance included:** Mary McIntyre, Joseph Bruno, Ted Molnar, Committee Members, Beth Murphy, Guest

**Others present by Zoom included**: Christina Ryan, Richard Combs, Petrina teRiele, Committee Members, Liz Bird, Guest, Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary

M. McIntyre called the meeting to order at 6:41 P.M.

M. McIntyre welcomed guests at this time, Elizabeth Bird and Beth Murphy, they are interested in joining the committee and sitting in to see what they do and how it works.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Minutes of Meeting – April 21, 2022**

J. Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes of April 21, 2022 as presented. C. Ryan seconded.

Page 1 – bottom of the page under Approval of Agenda, J. Bruno made the motion to approve the agenda.

Page 2 – 9th line from the bottom, ‘their map’ should be deleted. 7th line from the bottom ‘to’ should be deleted.

Page 3 – 7th line of the By-Laws Update paragraph, sentence beginning J. Bruno stated should have CEDRAC inserted after stated. 4th line from the bottom, ‘not’ should be inserted between would be.

Page 4 – 6th line from the top ‘of’ should be inserted after Monday. First line of the next paragraph should read ‘M. McIntyre stated the business maps are still available. Third line of next paragraph ‘are’ should be inserted between agents involved.

All voted in favor. So voted.

**Selectboard Updates – Dick Combs**

R. Combs stated not much new to report, they are making progress on projects. The salt shed should be started in the fall and the sidewalk from the four corners to Parson’s Hill is going out to bid, they hope to get them done this construction season. The sewer plant award has been made, that will be done this summer, they did get some grant funds, the rest the Town will have to come up with. T. Molnar asked if it would be possible for children of Castleton schools to decorate the transfer station, it doesn’t look great. The fellows there are friendly and professional and came up with the idea of covering the cardboard, that has been accomplished, he thinks it would be nice to decorate the outside. R. Combs suggested starting that conversation with the Town Manager or public works director. R. Combs also stated they have 1.4 million in ARPA funds that needs to be used, they have until the end of 2023 to allocate, and 2025 to spend. The Selectboard is going to start coming up with a plan to listen to public input other than what has already been presented to the board. M. McIntyre asked if fiber optics are on the list, R. Combs believed it was, but would listen to all presenting. T. Molnar felt the longer they wait for fiberoptics, the harder it is going to be to get companies to expand. He knows many people at Killington who moved to Vermont, they did not come to Castleton because there is no high-speed internet.

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

M. McIntyre sent out Martha Clifford’s presentation, the biggest item being to keep CVS as Town property and make use of it and a coalition to keep within Town ownership and make it a home for the Recreation Commission. J. Bruno stated they should keep ownership but need to come to a long-term plan to financially support the building. Discussion held on the building and how it will be financially supported. R. Combs stated the school system would be shutting off the power on July 1. Further discussion on the Village School building and how it can be supported financially until a plan is put in place, as well as the need for a home for the Recreation Commission. M. McIntyre felt they should send a letter to the Board of Selectmen and the ad hoc committee to support the recreation commission and keeping the building as a community center. Further discussion on the recreation director, finding someone to fill the position, as well as the assistant to the tax collector, public works director and roustabout at the transfer station, all of which are vacant or will be soon. M. McIntyre stated they are an advisory committee and give direction and/or support to the town departments. J. Bruno made a motion to have the chair draft a letter in support of the Recreation Committee thoughts on a community center in the Castleton Village School building with the caveat that they look for business to rent space to generate income to support that goal. R. Combs seconded. T. Molnar stated that in addition to that they support that it has also been asked for publicizing the area is available and let the public know what’s going on and getting ahold of organizations to support. All voted in favor. So voted.

M. McIntyre stated Crystal Beach is still looking for part time maintenance and a gate person per Martha Clifford.

**Planning Commission – Joe Bruno**

J. Bruno stated the Planning Commission hasn’t done much other than they are still in the process of updating the town zoning regulations. He is still working on his project about the solar array being proposed at Exit 5, and has sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen for more information and requesting they support the Planning Commission in their opposition to the project, and he will attend the next Board of Selectmen meeting. He felt they need to have some sort of control over how many more solar arrays can be sustained, pertaining to State parameters and where they can go. The developers are targeting open land, so they are losing more and more farmland. Discussion on the solar field and the senior housing projects that are being proposed and whether the town’s people know of either one of the proposals and whether the RRPC can help to regulate them at all.

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

C. Ryan stated were putting together a proposal for the Board of Selectmen with a breakdown of what they can do for a tourism website, and they have found out that the Rutland Region Chamber is still functioning. The chamber has lost much of their membership, but they are trying to bring things back. They service West Haven, Benson, Castleton, Hubbardton and Fair Haven, but they are still bare bones and were excited about possible support from Castleton. C. Ryan stated they are at a standstill with how to proceed on the local level and felt they should maybe go ahead with a tourism web site and continue to work with the Rutland Chamber as much as they can. She suggested possibly some drone footage and post on the town website. Further discussion on website and what could be added or enhanced and potential cost.

**Welcome Wagon – Mary McIntyre**

M. McIntyre presented bag and explained what was in it. She stated the 500 stickers were $38 and they have about .35/bag with sticker and bag, tissue paper, a few brochures, the committee’s map, and a few other miscellaneous items. They have also put together coupon examples for local businesses to include and they should be able to start handing them out in July.

**Broadband Update – Tim Munks**

T. Munks was not present at this time. He is still working and won’t be a part of this committee any further but he has moved up in that fiber optics union and will still be an asset for the town on that committee.

**Recreation Property Exploration – Zack Holzworth**

Z. Holzworth was not present at this time. M. McIntyre spoke with Mike Jones who indicated they still have not gotten anything from the Rehlen’s. M. McIntyre mentioned the businesses for sale in Town and indicated that Z. Holzworth spoke with a realtor and they would be more than happy to have help advertising the business opportunities.

**By-Laws Update – Petrina teRiele/Mary McIntyre**

M. McIntyre addressed the terms of the members and how many consecutive terms they can have year after year. The Town Manager has reviewed the terms and he came back with suggestions of two 2 year and two 1-year terms and three seats for business owners, Board of Selectmen and Planning Commission members. M. McIntyre felt Recreation board would be included but may not be. M. Jones had suggested they don’t have to stay within the parameter, and if they are going to rewrite the bylaws, now would be the time to make it more workable. Further discussion on the membership and how to get more members, as well as a review of how membership is established as of now per bylaws.

**July 4th Celebration**

M. McIntyre stated she attended a meeting last week, they moving along and have funds for the gap previously mentioned. The Lions Club donated and some personal donations were received and a coin drop is scheduled. Discussion on scheduling and events of July 4th.

**New Business**

No New Business at this time.

**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