

TOWN OF CASTLETON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 4, 2019 at 7:00pm
Castleton Town Hall
263 VT – 30
Bomoseen, VT 05732

PRESENT: Jim Leamy, Economic Development Committee Chair; Ed O'Shea, Economic Development Committee Vice Chair; Mark Brown, Economic Development Committee Member; Mike Jones, Town Manager; Eliza LeBrun, Recording Secretary; Jennifer Jones, Julie Finnegan

ABSENT: Ryan Starer, Economic Development Committee Member; Jerry Hadeka, Economic Development Committee Member.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Leamy at 7:05pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. O'Shea made a motion to approve the Agenda. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: *Discussion of proposal to dissolve Economic Development Committee and authorize the formation of a Community Development & Economic Advisory Committee.*

Discussion was held on the benefit of dissolving the Economic Development Committee and creating a combined Community Development & Economic Advisory Committee. Mr. Jones explained that the committee would have a mission statement and a vision statement to define its purpose. Mr. Jones distributed a draft of a document defining the formation of this committee. It included not only a mission and vision statement, but it also listed the roles of the officers of the committee. Membership was listed to indicate the number of members as well as the fact that four members would be Castleton residents and three members would be from the Castleton business community.

Both Mrs. Finnegan and Mrs. Jones spoke about the benefit a committee such as the proposed would have on the community. Mrs. Finnegan and Mrs. Jones planned and executed the Castleton Day Event several weekends ago and believe that this committee would offer a way for the public to voice their opinions about where they would like to see Castleton as well as the businesses. This committee should be able to help with gathering consensus in the community.

Mr. Jones pointed out that there are many different grants available to Towns for infrastructure, but at this time, it is not feasible for the Town to gather the necessary documentation, designs, costs and letters of support to apply for all of these grants, while the Community Development and Economic Revitalization Advisory Committee would.

Mr. Brown pointed out that the Castleton community is not growing and he would like to see this change and to engage the residents in the change.

Mr. Jones responded that many state agencies would attend these meetings to assist with what needs to be done to get this going.

Mr. O'Shea discussed the changes he has seen in his 29 years in Castleton and his concern that zoning regulations need to be addressed.

Mrs. Finnegan shared that she had grown up in this area and left, but she returned with her family to settle here, but it doesn't have the same feeling it did when she was young. Mrs. Finnegan feels that if there is not a good school in Town, that will not draw families.

After much discussion on the changes all would like to see and the steps necessary to take them, the following motion was made.

Mr. O'Shea made a motion to dissolve the Economic Development Committee and authorize the formation of a Community Development & Economic Advisory Committee. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

It was noted that this motion would need to go in front of the Select Board for final approval and appointment of members.

Mr. Leamy asked the Town Manager to place one ad for interested residents and business people to apply for the committee as well as to place the ad on social media.

ADJOURN

Mr. O'Shea made a motion to adjourn the Economic Development Committee Meeting at 7:45p.m. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted; Eliza LeBrun, Recording Secretary