

Community & Economic Development Committee
Thursday, June 3, 2021
Public Zoom Meeting - 6:30 PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Poland CEDC meeting for June 3, 2021, was called to order at 6:30 pm via Zoom, by Committee Chair Jennifer Letourneau. The Chair, as well as members Cyndi Robbins, Norm Davis, Raymond Cloutier, Jessica Wilson, and Sheila Foley, are present. Member Stacey Bsullak, and Alternate Member William Eldridge are absent.

Public Attendance: Selectboard Member Nate McNally, and Recording Secretary Alex Sirois.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Welcome new member Jessica Wilson

- Jessica Wilson introduces herself to the Committee.

MINUTES

May 6, 2021

- Vice-Chair Cyndi Robbins makes a motion to accept the minutes for May 6, 2021, as presented, seconded by Member Norm Davis. No discussion.
VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 0

REPORTS

Financial Report

- Alex outlines the expenses but he is not sure about the dues expense. It is likely to do with one of the association memberships.
- Vice Chair Cyndi Robbins makes a motion to accept the financial report, as presented, seconded by Member Raymond Cloutier. No discussion.
VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 0

Planning and Development Report

- The following new business registrations were received by the Planning and Development Office since the last meeting:
 - a. Helms Brothers, a construction company, located at 137 Hackett Mills Road.
 - b. Abigail Hanks Arts, an artist, located at 513 White Oak Hill Road.
- The Planning Board approved the following commercial projects since the last meeting:
 - a. A Final Major Subdivision Application for Auburn Residential Development Corporation, an elderly housing development on Maine Street.

- The following commercial building permits were issued by the Code Enforcement Officer:
 - a. Camp Fernwood received an after the fact permit to build two (2) storage sheds, valued at \$10,000.00.
 - b. Cyndi Robbins received a permit to install 22 new boat slips, valued at \$52,000.00.
- Member Norm Davis asks if anyone has heard any more on the incoming solar farm.
 - a. Member Raymond Cloutier has, they have issued the electrical permit and the power company has put up the metering poles.
- Member Raymond Cloutier has heard someone is interested in buying the Page building.

COMMUNICATIONS

Northlight Electric Bill

GMAC Graphics Bill

- Member Raymond Cloutier makes a motion to pay both bills, seconded by Member Norm Davis. No discussion.

VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 0

OLD BUSINESS

Downtown Design Standards

- Amy Segal gives her presentation about the downtown design standards.
- Amy informs the Committee that the standards apply to both downtown areas which are different zones, the Downtown and Village 4. Since both are very different she suggests that the Committee consider differentiating between them.
- Member Raymond Cloutier would like to have a copy of the standards for the next meeting.
- Vice Chair Cyndi Robbins would really like to get the Planning Board involved sooner rather than later. The town needs to balance being business friendly.
 - Chair Jennifer Letourneau asks when would be a good time to involve the Planning Board.
 - It is decided that a joint workshop date should be discussed at the next meeting.
 - Cyndi suggests also including the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

Business After Hours

- Vice Chair Cyndi Robbins informs the Committee that the museum is ready. The renovation was completed at the cost of \$500,000.00. She is wondering if it should be done inside or outside, and can get a liquor license for both.
- Recording Secretary Alex Sirois informs the Committee he has about 20 RSVPs to date.
- Chair Jennifer Letourneau suggests giving an award to Northlight Electrical if they plan on attending, since they won the Business Recognition Award.
- Amy Segal will attend and have a small informal presentation set up.

- Member Sheila Foley suggests bringing up the Business Registration fee at the Business After Hours event to see if anyone has any thoughts.

Municipal Park

- Member Sheila Foley updates the Committee on the status of the Municipal Park plan. Scott Segal would like to attend the July meeting to go over some of the things that may happen. Right now the project is still in the planning phase. The goal remains to not use any tax payment money.

NEW BUSINESS

TIF Workshop Follow Up

- Vice Chair Cyndi Robbins was just upset that the CEDC was not invited to participate in the workshop.
 - Chair Jennifer Letourneau is glad she spoke up.
- Cyndi did like the plan they put together however, she is not happy that the sewer project is a year behind schedule.
 - Member Raymond Cloutier asks if the three phase power extension is moving forward.
 - Cyndi believes that it is.
- Raymond asks if we can petition for an extension to the TIF due to COVID-19.
- Jennifer asks Nate if he can send a copy of what was decided on at the TIF workshop.
 - He will email it.

Bicentennial Parade

- Member Sheila Foley informs the Committee that the bicentennial parade is back on for August 21st. She would like to confirm that the \$2,000.00 previously approved for this event can still be used.
 - Vice Chair Cyndi Robbins believes since it was put into the budget it can still be used.
 - Sheila will send out an email to everyone who was involved in the original planning meetings.
 - Vice Chair Cyndi Robbins makes a motion to spend up to \$2,000.00 on a parade float for the Bicentennial Parade, seconded by Sheila Foley. No discussion.
- VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 0

Future Meetings, Zoom vs. In-Person

- Chair Jennifer Letourneau informs the Committee that as long as we are in a state of emergency we can continue to use Zoom for meetings. Once that ends we would need to return to in person meetings. How does everyone feel about returning to in person meetings for July?

- Member Sheila Foley asks if someone gets sick could they meet with the rest of the Committee via Zoom individually.
 - Jen believes that until legislation is passed that would allow remote voting in this setting, it would not be allowed.
- The July meeting will be in the Town Office Conference Room.

OTHER

Election of Officers

- Vice Chair Cyndi Robbins nominates Jennifer Letourneau as Chair, seconded by Member Raymond Cloutier. No discussion.
VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 0
- Member Sheila Foley makes a motion to nominate Cyndi Robbins as Vice Chair, seconded by Member Norm Davis. No discussion.
VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 0
- Member Jessica Wilson nominates Member Sheila Foley as Secretary, seconded by Member Raymond Cloutier. No discussion.
VOTE: YES - 6 NO - 0

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourns at 8:24 pm.

Recorded by: ALS

Accepted on: July 1, 2021.