

**Town of Mount Desert
Economic Development Committee
July 16, 2019, 7 P.M
Town of Mount Desert Town Office Meeting Room**

Meeting Minutes

Attending: Matt Hart, Jackie Hewett, Durlin Lunt, Martha Dudman, Nancy Ho, Jamie Blaine, Stephanie Reece, Heather Jones, Seth Singleton, Dan McKay, Averel Wilson, Rick Wheeler, Wendy Wood (via Zoom)

Absent: Sam McGee, Minot Weld, Tony Smith, Don Graves

Guest: Kathy Miller

Topics Discussed

1. Because of a number of new members of the committee, each person introduced themselves.
2. Kathy Miller attended the meeting as an invited guest. She will submit her application for membership to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) this coming week.
3. Minutes of the June 19, 2019 meeting were moved, seconded and approved.
4. Micki Sumpter, who shortly will become the new Director of the Town of Mount Desert Chamber of Commerce, has expressed interest in joining our committee once she starts her new position.
5. In regards to officers of the Economic Development Committee (EDC), the committee approved asking Sam McGee to be Chair. The committee also approved Dan McKay as Vice Chair and Minot Weld as Secretary. If Sam declines the chairmanship, Dan McKay said he would chair the committee for a year. Wendy Wood said that she would serve as Secretary if Minot Weld declines. The committee approved Dan and Wendy as backups. (Jackie will ask Sam and Minot.)
6. The committee reviewed the terms of the current committee members.
7. The committee agreed to have quarterly meetings with the likelihood that additional meetings would be held. The quarterly meetings will be at 5:30 PM on the second Wednesday of each quarter. For the upcoming year those meetings will be held October 9, January 8, April 8, and July 8.
8. Jackie mentioned the Summer Residents Association meeting tomorrow, July 17th. Durlin will speak about town matters. Rick will briefly mention the ECD and its new status as a Town standing committee. He will note the August 5th, 2019, 6:30 PM Board of Selectmen meeting where designs for the Promenade Park will be presented and the September 9th, 2019 economic development community informational meeting where all are encouraged to attend and bring their ideas.
9. For the benefit of new committee members, Jackie reviewed the genesis and current status of the Promenade Park initiative. Nancy Ho will be sending out a

- project update letter to donors for the design stage of the project. Jackie will send copies of those letters to committee members.
10. Jackie also reviewed the rationale for setting up the Town of Mount Desert Community Development Corp (CDC) – a tax exempt 501c3 organization - and the Town of Mount Desert Economic Development Corp (EDC) – a 501c4 organization. Dan pointed out that the EDC is unlikely to be activated in the near future. The former is to provide donors a tax-free vehicle to help fund community projects. The latter is to assist individual businesses grow their businesses.
 11. The committee discussed in more detail the September 9th, 2019 Economic Development Community Informational meeting. Its primary focus will be to present the new committee and its mission, to listen to ideas from the audience, and to encourage members of the community to participate by providing ideas and getting involved in specific projects.
 12. Seth suggested and the committee approved the creation of a “cheat sheet” outlining the purpose of the committee, its members, how we are organized, how we are funded, etc. The cheat sheet will be made available to the community prior to the September 9th meeting. Jackie will draft the cheat sheet. The September 9th meeting is tentatively scheduled for 6 PM at the Town Office Meeting Room.
 13. Heather suggested having Dick Broom from *The Islander* do an article in advance of the September 9th meeting as a means of alerting the community about the meeting and the newly reorganized committee.
 14. The committee acknowledged that it had not done a good job of communicating its past activities to the community. Having committee meeting dates, agendas and minutes posted on the Town’s website will help. Stephanie noted that one can sign up on the Town’s website for specific notifications one would like to receive by email. The committee will need to further explore how best we can communicate that option to all members of the community.
 15. The committee felt that a community survey focused on economic development would be beneficial. We should construct the survey after we have input from the September 9th informational meeting.

Next committee meeting: **Monday, August 26 at 5:30 PM** in the Town Office Meeting Room.

There being no further business, Dan McKay, as acting Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Wheeler
Acting Secretary