

Town of Mount Desert  
Economic Development Committee Meeting  
October 15, 2019 5:30pm

Minutes

**Attending:** Martha Dudman, Dan McKay, Matt Hart, Seth Singelton, Wendy Wood, Minot Weld, Averel Wilson (Zoom), Jamie Blaine (Zoom), Jackie Hewett, Durlin Lunt, Rick Wheeler

**Absent:** Nancy Ho, Kathy Miller, Stephanie Reece, Heather Jones, Don Graves, Tony Smith

**Visitor:** Micki Sumpter

Informal discussion of Mobile Vendor permits in NEH

- There is an annual lottery for the two Mobile Vending permits currently available in Northeast Harbor.
- Application dates is April 1, the Committee discussed making this earlier in the year. No decision reached
- The BOS is considering increasing the yearly license fee, which is currently set at \$250
- The ordinance allows for up to five licenses to be made available. The BOS may investigate allowing additional licenses.

Approval of prior meeting minutes

Discussion of the proposed Promenade Park

- The park is intended to improve the visual character of the town and to effect a connection between the Main Street commercial district and the marina.
- The BOS is clear that:
  - The park, as planned, is a good idea, and
  - Park construction will be financed with private funding
- The MDCDC would be the entity responsible for raising these funds.
- The EDC recommends that a warrant accepting donation of the park by the town be drafted. This request will be submitted to the BOS for their review and approval.
- Review of public comments made at September 6<sup>th</sup> EDC public meeting:
- Hall Quarry: The EDC is sympathetic to the concerns of Hall Quarry residents. However, the issue is being handled by the Planning Board and is not in the purview of the EDC.
- Broadband:
  - The desirability of extending high-speed fiber optic connectivity directly to township homes and businesses cannot be over-emphasized. It is essential today and will only become more so over time.
  - It is our impression that a large number of residences and businesses in the township do not currently enjoy optimal fiber connectivity.
  - We need to confirm that this is true and that residents and businesses would like to see the situation rectified.
  - Accordingly, the EDC will request that the BOS re-convene the Broadband Committee and instruct the Committee to draft a short list of questions to determine current and desired levels of connectivity for submission to:

- The Chamber of Commerce for distribution to its members.
- The Summer Residents Association
- Year-round town residents

#### Housing:

- While the EDC is wholly supportive of efforts to establish affordable and workforce housing within the Township, it is not in the purview of the Committee to directly engage in such activities. However, we can:
  - Liaise with the Island Housing Trust and Mount Desert 365 to keep apprised of their activities and help where able.
  - Conduct a review of town-owned property to determine what parcels, if any, may be eligible and appropriate for private development.

#### Main Street NEH Development:

- What can be done to facilitate the development of empty lots on Main Street?
- Can the town facilitate development through the review and modification of relevant zoning and permitting regimes?
- It is determined that a review of business and property owners be conducted on this topic. Micki Sumpter agreed to ask Chamber members to chime in on this issue.
- To be continued...

#### Medical Center

- The EDC is interested in exploring the expansion of medical services in Northeast Harbor
- The current medical building appears underutilized. It is unclear who owns it and what services are available there.
- Minot and Seth offered to investigate the status of this building and its services and report back at the next EDC meeting.

#### Next Meeting Dates:

November 21, 2019, 5:30pm

January 9, 2020, 5:30pm