

**RANGELEY REGION ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
FEBRUARY 22, 2020 9:00 AM**

- 1. OPEN MEETING**
- 2. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**
- 3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING MINUTES**
February 8, 2021
- 4. PUBLIC TO SPEAK – NON-AGENDA ITEM**
- 5. CORRESPONDENCE**
- 6. OLD BUSINESS**
 - Broadband Update
 - FY 2021-22 Budget
 - Banners
 - TIF
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
 - Bill Pierce / Walkable Oquossoc Presentation
- 8. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 9. NEXT MEETING**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

**RANGELEY REGION ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2020 9:00 AM**

In attendance: Kate Williamson; Laura Reynolds; Dawn Field; Darryl Sterling; Joe Roach, Town Manager; Rebekah Carmichael-Austin, Finance Director; Shelly Lowell (joined at 9:24 AM)

Absent: Beth Eastlack

1. OPEN MEETING at 9:04 AM

2. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: none

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

December 17, 2020 - Motion to approve by Laura Reynolds; 2nd by Dawn Field vote 3-0-1 (Shelly absent)

January 11, 2021 - Motion to approve by Laura Reynolds; 2nd by Dawn Field vote 3-0-1 (Shelly absent)

4. PUBLIC TO SPEAK – NON-AGENDA ITEM - none

5. CORRESPONDENCE - none

6. OLD BUSINESS

- Consolidated Communications Proposal
 - Reviewed the Thursday, February 4th meeting and check to see if there were any questions or concerns that arose.
 - Joe Roach to let us know about this Wednesday's public meeting at 3 pm with the delegates.
 - RFP asking for a complete request for budget/or bond number and a breakdown by municipalities as part of the RFP.
 - Confirmed timing of November start date if approved with Town Meeting in June with individual municipalities. Or a delay to start in Spring/early summer if we choose interlocal agreement creation first and joint bond.

- FY 2021-22 Budget -
 - Putting together our capital plan strategy that includes internet, infrastructure, downtown improvements and development, attainable and workforce housing and marketing to promote other small businesses outside of the tourist industry.

- Funds put aside: \$10,000 Banners and \$8,000 design Depot Street
- Add to Capital Plan - maybe add reserves for potentials in Oquossoc (Joe talked with Bill Pierce); Depot Street kiosk.
- Attainable Housing - really two categories
 1. Attainable Housing
 2. Workforce Housing
 - Maybe analysis on what's available (building in and out of Town); Spring time, maybe get a meeting with contractors; grant's available; get a program in place; Kate suggested having a meeting like we had with SBA for small businesses.
 - Darrell may know of a developer to help with this type of financing; he also spoke with Robert Nadeau at USDA who stated there are programs coming out.
- Banners
 - There are funds available in current account. Keith is working with Joe on options. The high quality are about \$150 each.
- TIF
 - 3/9/2021 TIF Vote
 - Written ballots
 - Time line in updated press release per Darrell
 - Selectmen presented with Policy after TIF approval with Vote
 - Later in the summer to know money in TIF budget

7. NEW BUSINESS - none

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- Broadband Internet
 - Laura questioned the bill the Selectmen received and agreed to pay 25% of, she didn't realize the Town/Plantations were getting billed.
 - Seeing Brian on the call, Laura asked if we would be billed? Get clarification on if we will be charged for him attending the call at the last meeting and any going forward. To that, Rebekah suggested that we all have a direction and does not know if we need any further assistance.
 - Joe to contact Charles Woodworth.
 - Darrell asked if we should increase the budget line item from \$3,000 to \$5,000 to the budget if we are getting billed.

9. NEXT MEETING - February 22nd at 9 AM

10. ADJOURNMENT at 9:46 AM

Parking & Info Kiosk Adjacent to Outdoor Heritage Museum - Meeting Handout

Project:

Create a collaborative effort with a range of Public, Non-profit, and Private partners to construct a gravel surfaced parking area in the MDOT ROW adjacent to Outdoor Heritage Museum (West on Rte. 17) to help alleviate the current need for additional parking in Oquossoc Village.

Partners:

Rangeley Lakes Historical Society & Outdoor Heritage Museum

Town of Rangeley

MDOT

Regional Scenic Byways Committee

Local Private Businesses

Rangeley Snowmobile Club

Statement of Need:

On any given busy day in the summer or during any festivals or event days, parking in Oquossoc Village becomes challenging.

- Often vehicles are parked on both sides of Routes 4 & 17 creating safety situations where groups of pedestrians are walking in the roadway as there are no sidewalks other than by the restrooms.
- Oquossoc village, its businesses, and the Museum, being an anchor on the National Scenic Byway, has rapidly grown in popularity over the past few years and will continue to attract visitors.
- The Cabin info Kiosk adjacent to the parking would accent the current Kiosk located on the corner of Rte. 4 & 16, not replace it (more about that in another project). It would contain information about regional assets, a map and other info to inform & assist users.
- In winter, this parking area would become the snowmobile trail it currently is. RLHS feels that this winter artery is vital to the businesses in Oquossoc and will continue to allow access to and from the village across their property and this proposed lot. The info Kiosk could be adjusted in winter to cater to this clientele.
- Regional non-profits now execute Art in the Park, Strawberry Festival, Lupine Festival, Oquossoc Day and Fall Festival events that all contribute positive economic impacts and parking challenges.
- The proposed parking area would also provide a safe place for midweek bus groups to park safely. Imagine a cruise ship docking at a port of call where the passengers disembark and can walk to the wide variety of eateries and retail businesses as well as the planned Museum visit. This option is attractive to Tour Operators.
- The Outdoor Heritage Museum is an attraction that is bringing visitors to the region, while supporting the "Rangeley" brand. It now hosts approx. 4800 visits annually and often the limited parking there is insufficient as well.
- The facility would also be the site for the Byways Wayfinding gateway sign coming north on Rte. 17 and feature at least two additional Byways historical info panels and a map of the village and the proposed Oquossoc History Walk etc.

Partners & Potential Contributors

RLHS – Project administration, landscaping & upkeep of Kiosk & grounds, Graphic design Possible additional land required to facilitate execution.

Koob's Garage - Earthmoving Equipment and collaboration of construction partners. Mike Koob feels he can get other businesses to offer in kind support in the way of materials and trucking etc.

M&H –Crushed slate for Parking area & walkway

Rangeley Snowmobile Club – Culvert for Parking area & Winter maintenance

Town of Rangeley – Help with partnering with MDOT, funding for signage and panel production (\$2,000 -\$2500) occasional public works support on roadside and surface maintenance.