

Rangeley Region Economic Opportunity Committee

Minutes of meeting held December 17, 2018

Members Present: Kate Williamson, Laura Reynolds, Linda Dexter, Nancy Hilliard, Karen Ogulnick, David Burgess

Call to order: Kate called the meeting to order at 7:50 am.

Minutes: From December 3rd meeting Nancy motioned to approve, Kate 2nd. Approved.

Economic Development Coordinator Update: Darryl not present

General Updates:

Kate gave update on final public meeting for Downtown Revitalization Plan. Fewer people attended final meeting, key points: make sure ordinance committee and DRP on same page as ordinances are being written; new issue arose – retail marijuana site in the downtown area; parking. Wright-Pierce spoke to next step: get a “Champion” to coordinate implementation of plan. Final plan will be available upon approval of DECD.

Meeting Topic:

Discussion on TIFs. Darryl will be asked to give a presentation on how TIFs work and how to present issue to town for adoption of a TIF plan.

Internship programs: Nancy gave update on communications with UMF re: getting interns to help with specific projects. Some ideas: walking tour video, data collection and management, housing assessment, real estate inventory, create database, analysis of data. Need to present plan by 3/31. David Miller and Jean Thorvaldsen will be invited to next meeting for ideas on internship programs, how to use interns effectively.

Keep town manager and administrative assistant in the loop with RREOC. Need to make sure RREOC ideas/Code Enforcement and Ordinance & Zoning (Planning Board) are all involved in the process of any Sign and/or Parking issues or plans the RREOC wants to implement. Laura will invite Ethna (Ordinance Comm) to meeting. Ask Town Manager to attend RREOC meeting 1x/month to keep him updated on our plans.

Broadband and Cell Towers – Burgess pursuing a tower at golf course, AT&T not quick to respond to needs in area nor are other providers. Burgess plans to pursue towers in several locations in area. Informal decision by committee to support Burgess (local company) in pursuits of providing broadband and cell coverage to area (Burgess will solicit cell providers to use his towers).

David Miller, Rob Welch and Laura Reynolds attended conference in Augusta hosted by Northern Forest Center regarding outdoor recreation in Maine. Outdoor health discussed, model in Colorado – “Colorado RX”

All members come to next meeting with ideas on what we can use interns for to aide in our economic plans.

Adjourn: Nancy motioned to adjourn, Kate second. Adjourned at 9:00 am.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 1, 2019 at 7:45 am

Minutes taken by Linda Dexter, Secretary