

Rangeley Region Economic Opportunity Committee

Minutes of meeting held April 2, 2018

Members Present: Kate Williamson, Linda Dexter, Nancy Hilliard, Shelley Lowell and Dawn Field, Darryl Sterling.

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

Minutes: Dawn motioned to accept minutes, Nancy 2nd. Motion carried.

Economic Development Coordinator Update:

EDC report available.

General Updates:

\$5,000 put in Rangeley budget for 6 combination trash/recycle receptacles. The \$20,000 reserve fund request is also in the budget as well as Darryl's salary. Reserve funds will be requested every year for ongoing projects. Wright-Pierce updated the Selectmen on the downtown plan.

Reiterate RREOC structure: we are the downtown committee with smaller groups focused on specific needs and projects.

A press release went out with the Wright-Pierce project mentioned. W-P can finish the project in 2018 instead of going into 2019 as originally thought.

Per Nancy: the visioning session by Rangeley Wellness had a 50 or so people attended. Several ideas came out. Ideas will be made available to RREOC at some point.

Tim Pellerin is taking a job out of Rangeley as Town Manager. Rangeley continues to look for town manager and now need a Fire Chief. Money was put in budget to look for replacement town manager with development experience.

A vote to discontinue the portion of road required to complete airport project will be forthcoming. Darryl applied for \$500K grant toward funds for Loon Lake road.

More discussion on winter decorations vs. Christmas decorations for downtown, also reiterated idea of 2 cocktail meetings to get seasonal home-owners input. Communications needed to let people know when meetings are, more easily seen by public.

Meeting Topic:

Continuation of Threats Analysis:

Saddleback never opens

Still looking for Town Manager (need someone with same vision being discussed by RREOC)

Vision Change (from turnover of town manager and selectmen)

Selectboard Changes (inconsistent vision and plans)

Community Resistance to change.

- Uncomfortable when change happens

- Communicate

- Trust

- Flowchart: how we are similar

Communications – people have to become more active in events & info

No Strategic Planning

Frustration & Burnout

Environmental Concerns:

- Global Warming, Daily Weather, Maine Legislature (changes in laws)

Population (older)

- Need to attract younger population

Infrastructure

Roads

Funding for programs is decreasing

Size of Population (seasonal fluctuations)

Education

Border Patrol Viability

Adjourn: Nancy Motioned to Adjourn, Dawn 2nd. Adjourned at 9:15 am.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 30, 2018 at 7:45 am. **Topic:** Solutions to Threats

Minutes taken by Linda Dexter, Secretary