

**Town of Fair Haven
Economic Development Committee
October 8, 2024 – Regular Meeting
Minutes**

Members Present: Glen Traverse, Mike Pavelec, Ceil Hunt, Judi Sutherland

Members Absent: Joe Gunter, Chadd Viger, Jessica Stannard

Call to Order

Glen Traverse, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Review the Agenda for October 8, 2024

Renewal of committee positions: Glen Traverse, Acting Chair, will renew for one (1) year and Judi Sutherland, Clerk, will renew for one (1) year. Miss Hunt moved to accept the Agenda with these additions, Mr. Pavelec seconded and the motion passed.

Review the Minutes of September 10, 2024

A spelling error was corrected to Mr. Mike Pavelec's surname. Pavelec is correct. Ms. Hunt motioned to accept the corrected Minutes and Ms. Sutherland seconded. The motion passed.

Old Business

IBC Updates

The annual Fall stick figures are installed around the park. This is the fifth year of this project! Students of Ms. Jennifer Clement's design class at the high school provided very creative figures to the display. Our thanks to them. We are now in the process of making several holiday soldiers for our Christmas display. We will also be reaching out to Reece deCastro, our Recreation Director, for some help and support.

The Community Bulletin Board Project

The location of the bulletin board has been changed to the end of the new parking lot at the end of Main Street. In this location, it can be accessed much easier in winter. We are in need of a carpenter to build the frame for the bulletin board. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Judi Sutherland at 828-699-2289.

EDC Newsletter

Ms. Hunt is providing an informative newsletter each month. It is currently available online, however, not everyone has access. The EDC is discussing other ways to get the newsletter out more easily. It will be posted on the community bulletin board once that project is complete.

You Are Here Map

Members of the EDC will be meeting with Mr. Ethan Pepin, a member of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, this month to walk the new parking area here to determine the best place for the installation of this sign. The installation location will be determined at the next meeting.

CEDRR Marketing Committee

CEDRR is focused on the Killington area at this time. However, the CEDRR Annual Meeting will be held at the Paramount on Wednesday, October 23rd, 5-7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Ordinance for Property Appearance & Maintenance

The EDC is continuing to work on this document to add clarity to property appearance regulations. Further discussion at next meeting.

New Business

New Residents Interested in Joining the EDC

Interested in joining the EDC, Mr. Glenn Heitsmith attended our meeting. He recently moved to Fair Haven from Ludlow. We welcome new faces and fresh ideas to make Fair Haven a great place to live and do business.

How to Attract People IN Business to Fair Haven & How to Attract People TO Business in Fair Haven

Another new resident, Ms. Laura Pedroni, joined us again for our meeting. She is eager to become involved. Her thoughts include:

- Web site development should be our priority. It is outdated and needs a designated Web Master. Her suggestion is to tap into students at SUV Castleton or even high school students.
- The Visitor's Center is not used to its full potential. Last year, the Visitor's Center welcomed 175,000 people who stopped there when entering Vermont. There is not one brochure about Fair Haven or its businesses. It would cost about \$100 a year to remedy this lack of information. Remind our businesses of this opportunity to advertise for very little money.

Our EDC member, Mr. Mike Pavelec, added that our current businesses need to be OPEN. Several have very limited hours or randomly close without notice. On a positive note, Mr. Pavelec has noticed that the EV charging station has been busy.

Public Comment

Three residents, Ms. Lisa Wood, Mr. Steve Brown, and Mr. Chris Lawrence expressed their concern regarding the possible recovery home on River Street. Thank you for your input.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 5:00pm.

Adjourn

Ms. Ceil Hunt motioned to adjourn, Mr. Mike Pavelec seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi Sutherland