Town of Fair Haven, Vermont

Fair Haven Economic Development Committee & Downtown Partnership

May 6, 2025 -- Regular Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

**Members present**: Glen Traverse, Judith Southerland, Mike Pavelec (on phone), Laura Pedroni, Deborah Laiacona, Joe Gunter

**Members Absent**: Ceil Hunt, Chadd Viger

**Call to Order**: Chairman Traverse called the meeting at 5:02 and led the assembly reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Review and Approve Agenda**: Ms. Southerland moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Pedroni and passed.

**Approval of Minutes From April 1, 2025**: Ms. Laiacona moved to approve the Minutes of the April 1, 2025, meeting as written; seconded by Ms. Southerland and passed.

OLD BUSINESS

**IBC Updates**: Ms. Southerland reported the Itty Bitty Committee met today. They are working on the Touch a Truck project to be held Friday, June 27th. She said equipment from DPW, Fire Trucks and First Responders will be there for kids to touch and climb on. Also, food and drink will be available.

 Ms. Southerland reported that last Saturday’s Fair Haven Blooms event was a great success; a large number of people volunteered to help, thanks to Laura Pedroni.

Rachael Casey is a new member of the IBC

**Economic Development Newsletter**: The May letter is out; highlights include Fair Haven Blooms, The Memorial Day Parade, May 24th, and Spring Fling, May 24th

Because of so much rain the Bulletin Board is not installed; it will be installed by Memorial Day. Discussed solar lights to illuminate the Bulletin Board

**Fair Haven Blooms Update**: Ms. Pedroni expressed thanks for all the help, more than was expected. She reported receiving acknowledgement from passersby and many positive comments. She prepared a synopsis of expenses noting there is $543. left after expenses. She reported almost $1000 worth of materials donated by local businesses. There was a discussion of ideas and how to grow and improve the event for next year. Now working on getting people to commit to “adopt a pot” and care for it. Mr. Traverse said the project exceeded expectations.

**EDDP Bylaws & Agreement for Downtown Designation**: The committee continues work toward Downtown Designation. Ms. Laiacona is updating the document that includes the Agreement for Downtown Partnership. Discussion included that it is not the number of people signed up, but showing the State that there is a wide range of people interested in working for the betterment of the Town. Ms. Pedroni commented that it is necessary to keep moving forward despite any negativity or nothing will get done. Mr. Gunter commented that he likes the idea of an annual meeting/luncheon. Mr. Traverse noted the document is well done and is ready to be presented to the State representative.

**Ordinance on Property and Maintenance Status**: Mr. Gunter said he reached out to
VLCT; it will be another month before they undertake that research.

NEW BUSINESS

**Update on Bond Vote to Purchase the National Guard Armory**: Action to be taken at tonight’s Special Select Board Meeting. Mr. Gunter reported the Armory was built in 2002; the State is anxious to dispose of it; has offered it for $1.3 million. The current DPW garage is located in a floodway, built in the 1930’s; is 2800 sq. ft. The Armory is a modern 11,500 sq. ft. and can accommodate all of DPW equipment stored inside. There was brief discussion of future use of the current building. Mr. Pavelec commented that Airport Road should be paved as far as the Armory.

Ms. Pedroni inquired about the crosswalk lights. Mr. Gunter noted they are ordered, not received.

The Next meeting is June 3, 2025

The meeting was **adjourned** at 6:30 p.m.