

August 25, 2020 Economic Development Meeting

Committee Members Present: Al Howland, Sally Tobias, Ray, Molly Malloy, Warren Danial

Town Staff Present: Todd Selig, Micheal Behrendt.

Due to Covid-19 the meeting was virtual using the Zoom Platform. Sally Tobias began the meeting at 8 AM by making a motion to approve the agenda, and it was seconded by Molly. Motion passed 3-0. Warren Danial joined the meeting after the agenda vote.

The first discussion item was the Town Council initiated zoning changes. Micheal gave an overview of the changes in building height, residential/ commercial requirements, drive up facilities, and measurement of building height. Committee members asked questions about why the changes were proposed and expressed pass concerns about drive up facilities in the Courthouse district.

The next item on the agenda was a report on 66 Main Street. Todd explained the Covid-19 virus had caused UNH to put development on hold. Since the town has parking funds that could be lost next Summer, we approached UNH about the possibility of purchasing the land. Appraisal work needed to be completed to determine the land's value. Initially it could be used for parking and talks would continue with Elliot Sidewalk Development about a purchase or lease arrangement.

The next item was a report from the housing subcommittee. At the August meeting, retired UNH Economics professor England presented a study on single family housing and K-12 student costs. He stated that the common assumption was adding single family homes would increase school costs. In an era of declining enrollments, this was not necessarily the case. Al Howland talked about the Oyster River apportionment formula and the school system enrollment. Committee members thought this would be a good presentation for the Planning Board and Town Council.

The final item was the new mask ordinance. Molly expressed concern that she had heard from some resident that they would not shop downtown due to UNH students. She felt that providing residents with information on UNH's testing program and initiatives encouraging masks and social distancing. Discussion continue about how the community could be informed to help alleviate concerns.

At 9:50Am, Sally made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Molly. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting adjourned,

Respectfully submitted by

Al Howland