

Town of North Canaan  
Economic Development Committee  
May 26, 2022  
Regular Meeting

Present: Chairman Chris Tripler, Dr. Paul Foeller, John Lannen, Kathy Ducillo (zoom); Economic Advisor: Frank Perotti

Chairman Tripler called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

The committee did not have time to review the minutes from May, vote to approve the minutes was tabled to the June meeting.

**Chairman Tripler turned the floor over to the invited business owner spotlight: John Considine of Riga Construction and other businesses of North Canaan.**

J. Considine provided the following updates:

- Housatonic Railroad is moving into the newly renovated Salisbury bank building.
- FAIR Building, removing the blinds and turning it into retail space. John is in negotiation for the Electronic bike store (currently in Cornwall) will be moving into the 1st floor space.
- John has also purchased the church behind the Doughboy. John's vision is to get enough businesses generated in town to make it a local destiny to support all the businesses. John envisions that the church will be a pub style restaurant, in the hall portion a nicer sit down option.
- Kyle Considine and Will Perotti own the Fair Building. Updates to the outside of the Bob's Clothing Store with a new outside.
- J. Considine also bought the Raymond & Pierce building. Current plans will be for Wheeler & Taylor insurance to occupy the space (if not already). In addition, two apartments will be finished in the upstairs room that is getting finished. Some addition vacant space is available.
- In response to how the town could help him with his plans, his quote was "Request to work together to make things happen in town."

P. Foeller stated that curb appeal would go along way to increasing foot traffic.

- John, who also owns the Wellner building, stated that perhaps a tapas style restaurant go into that building with an additional apartment above.
- In additional response to how can the town help, John responded:
  - keep up sewer district improvements in lighting, and looks including replacing wooden pole with one light at corner of Main and Railroad, more capital investment to improve downtown aesthetics
  - P. Foeller stated that some capital investment should be made to improve the curb appeal beyond the work of the state currently. He gave an anecdote of McDonald's not keeping up with garbage. Discussion about a possible blight ordinance was had.

\*\* Land Trust Draft Letter. waiting to update with Christian Allyn.

\*\* Bank signage for municipal parking has been made by Ghi Signs. Four total signs were made. Two for the entrance from the roadside at the bank, and two directional signs for the municipal parking area in the back. Ghi will install the signage.

\*\* Lamp posts have been installed in front of the Bob's Clothing building as well as up the walkway from the Ducillo building towards McDonalds. The wrong posts have been installed, so these will be replaced with the correct ones that have the two way lighting elements. Chairman Tripler said that continued work with Tony Nania and the town continues to increase the downtown aesthetics. K. Ducillo said that some of the sidewalk blocks will need to be replaced. These items are with the Fire District, so it will be a matter of budget.

\*\* Website Updates. Committee agreed to ask C. Allyn at next meeting.

\*\* Promotion Video. Agreed to invite Ted Perotti to discuss the needs and set direction of promotions.

\*\* Downtown Business Update: Bill Hower is going to be renting to a Coffee Roaster company. K. Ducillo said that he hopes to be open by Railroad Days.

\*\* Discussion about the movie theater. P. Foeller noted that the theater could have live music, local artists, and some movie theater aspects. Consensus is that it would be nice if the building was used for something.

\*\* J. Lannen update on Railroad Days. July 13th-July 17th is Railroad Days. Fireworks are on July 16th. Focus on Family fun for the week, Carnival returns with permission given for more use of Lawrence field, on July 13th will be NORTH CANAAN Community Day at the Depot. Museums will be open, barbeque, and lawn games.

\*\* J. Lannen update for September Fund Raising Dinner for Zinke Foundation. Looking for a location, maybe Land of Nod.

\*\* P. Foeller proposed EDC organization to work with is the Legion Post. Invite K. Harrington (commandant of North Canaan VFW) to provide an update of their work. Includes the David Symonds memorial, a leader of the town.

\*\* Marshal Miles for Robin Hood Radio & Public Calendar to help promote activities of the town, and get the EDC meetings promoted. Other town wide promotions: Lakeville Journal, Mary Wilbur, articles for Canaan, and Opinion pieces generated from the committee members.

\*\* With new e-bike business, discussion about marking roads that are deemed bike friendly. Developing touring routes for bikes in town.

\*\* Next meeting set for June 16th, 2022. 6:00 pm.

Adjournment proposed by P. Foeller, seconded by J. Lannen. unanimously approved at 6:56 pm.