

Town of North Canaan
EDC
October 27, 2022
Special Meeting

Present: Chairman Chris Tripler, John Lannen, Bob Riva, Will Perotti, Frank Perotti, Kathy Ducillo
Selectmen: Charlie Perotti and Craig Whiting,

Chairman Tripler called the meeting to order at 6:01pm

Mr. Lannen made a motion to correct the September minutes to the monetary amount. It should read \$1000 not \$4000 from Railroad Days budget. Mr. Tripler seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Mr. Tripler made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Mr. Perotti seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

The update on Broadband is tabled.

The chairman shared a draft report from the March 2021 meeting regarding land trust. The town doesn't take an official stand on easements. Landowners can be put in touch with organizations regarding landtrust/easements and should work with their own lawyers. Chairman will finish up the recommendation letter before next meeting.

Housing Steering plan – the Board of Selectman accepted the 5 year plan and now have to create the committee to work on the plan over the next 5 years. We have fulfilled the requirement from the State and are at 10% recommended status. There was a discussion of the housing situation in town and in the surrounding towns and the high school attributing to the budget and mill rate increase. In terms of marketing we need to strike a balance between bringing in workers but not families where there is no housing. Housing goes hand in hand with employment within the community. North Canaan remains the last safe place for people to come because taxes and housing prices were low. Housing prices now are artificially high. They are going to drop. We have to wait things out – there is nothing we can do right now. Further discussion of the state and ideas to help with the highschool budget increases. They would like to make the highschool more attractive to students in a similar way that Oliver Wolcott does. Housing discussion will stay on the agenda.

Follow up on the video presented by Ted Perotti. The invoice for the 10 minute video is \$2800.00 as is. He would like ideas on what we would like to change, omit, etc to this clip and do we want an additional clip. He will then do another invoice. Committee would like him to cut the video down to about 8 minutes and come up with some video for a shorter video – perhaps using some of the interviews, but include things other than Railroad Days. We definitely want to invest in this as it showcases the town. We want to spark interest in visiting North Canaan. The video needs more of an introduction/header. There was a discussion of funding. Suggestion of Ted possibly getting footage Halloween night and maybe some daytime shots at the elementary school. Parade of lights in November 27.

Mr. Lannen will request another \$1000 from next year's budget as well. **Chairman Tripler made a motion to put an official proposal to request from the town a marketing budget including the funds**

Chairman Tripler would like to start coming up with goals for this committee. Other towns have the ability to put out grants for new businesses in town. Would like to get to that level but have to generate capital to begin with. There are rural business development grants. Chairman explained their possible uses. The EDC has to lead helping the town. Any ideas should be shared with the Chairman. We will leave on the agenda and share the plan/vision with the selectmen when a plan is created.

New business: Mr. Perotti would like to get a representative from Specialty Minerals (as well as others in future) here to speak about business, what opportunities they offer etc so the committee can learn about businesses in town.

Next month will be a discussion of the downtown meeting with the CT group. Chairman will share the minutes with the members.

Mr. Riva made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Ducillo seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell
Recording Secretary