

Northfield Economic Development Advisory Committee, approved minutes
Submitted by Sarah Kerns, Chair
November 1, 2023, meeting called to order 5:33

Present: Sarah Kerns, Robin van der Matt, Steve Stoia, Virginia (Jinx) Hastings.
Guest Howard Hastings and later, guest Mallory Sullivan

Minutes from September 27 meeting, read and a motion to accept by VH and second by SS

Sarah suggested we request a mail box for the NEDAC in the town hall, she will check into this.

Next meetings scheduled for November 15 & 29, and December 13 Town Hall 1st floor
5:30-7:00

Sarah had a conversation with Jody at the IGA. Jody expressed concerns about the expense with employees and the cost of benefits. He was delayed for 6 months with the need for the plumbing inspector to come to his setting. Sarah will talk with Andrea with these concerns, and possibly FRCOG. Jody is especially grateful for the ARPA grant he received. He also commented on how expensive it is to renovate old buildings, again grateful.

There was discussion about businesses that used to be here. With the the pandemic, many people turned to 24 hour online purchases for gifts, food, antiques, etc.

Sarah gave specifics about the current water and sewer problems, and the 4x rate increase for sewer proposed by Tigh & Bond. Having an affordable sewer and water rate is an incentive for businesses to come to Northfield.

Mallory said that the residential survey is complete, and there would be a business survey in the near future.

Steve presented previous work with regard to business and business park questions. Steve emphasized the need for living wage jobs, for now and the future. Steve suggested a citizen panel to discuss.

Jinx asked about the Brownfields Grant that Jessica from FRCOG talked about. Jinx felt the vacant "Jody" lot, and the lot behind the Fire Station could have some core drilling done, to once and for all know what is in the ground. Mallory said that grant might happen in 2-3 years.

A motion was brought up that Virginia (Jinx) be appointed clerk by Robin, Steve seconded it. Robin put together several lists of business people and locations that need verifying. We will each do 5 names.

Sarah mention there have been other people interested in joining our committee.
Sarah will review the town policy concerning members attendance on a committee.

Motion to adjourn at 6:58 by Jinx, Robin Seconded