

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Economic Development Committee meeting on March 9, 2021

(This meeting was correctly posted)

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve agenda
4. Approve minutes: 2/9/21
5. Public Input
6. DCEDC update
7. Development of a strategic plan for use of podcasts and/or video profiles on Town website
8. Consider upcoming projects and potential implementation:
 - a. Incubators on Town property
 - b. Attainable housing and residential co-ops
9. Future meeting
10. Adjourn

Chair John Lowry called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Committee members Andrew Gantman, Chuck Scheckel, Dave Studebaker, and Candy Wassel were present along with Administrator Walter Kalms, Clerk/Treasurer Anastasia Bell, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Doug Curzon, via teleconference (Zoom).

Studebaker moved, Gantman second to approve the agenda as posted. Passed 5-0.

Lowry moved, Scheckel second to approve the 2/9/21 minutes as presented. Passed 5-0.

Public – None

DCEDC Update – Lowry reported the following on behalf of Steve Jenkins. Broadband proposals are due Friday, they are requesting that a person from Liberty Grove be a part of the selection committee. WHEDA is moving forward and there will be a public meeting on 4/9/2021. Julie is working on a business program for current businesses in the County.

Strategic Plan for Podcasts/Video Profiles – Scheckel noted the videos should be about where new businesses can be supported within the Town. Since there is a lot of complexity related to ownership and development for Town owned parcels, the focus may need to shift to private parcels. The maps in the packet show the current commercial and light industrial zoned areas within the Town. The first step should be to contact the owners and see if there is interest in developing or selling to a developer which would assist in steering a new business to an available space. It was clarified that individual parcels should not be the focus of the videos or discussions; the focus should be the available areas. Scheckel reviewed the marketing plan outline which is attached to these minutes. It would be beneficial to work with DCN, DCEDC, and SBAA in this process. Attainable housing is likely to continue to be a challenge in bringing people to the area. Various properties were identified for investigation. 1 member of the public joined the meeting.

Incubators on Town property – Lowry reported that the disposition of the house from Mariners Park at Gills Rock is going before the Town Electors in April. One suggestion was to move it to the Val-A property as an incubator site.

Attainable Housing and Residential Co-ops – Lowry reported that Green Magic is still interested in locating in Liberty Grove and there will be a telephone conference scheduled soon. Janet Johnson reported the housing focus group discussed that non-profit development groups are more likely to get involved if a property has water/sewer or well/septic installed and there are often grants available to complete these installations. Covenants may also be an option to ensure the purpose of the property doesn't change when a developer takes ownership.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

Lowry moved, Studebaker second to adjourn at 7:37pm. Passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the 4/13/2021 Economic Development Committee meeting.