

**TOWN OF EPSOM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
EPSOM TOWN OFFICES
NOVEMBER 21, 2019
6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Cheryl Gilpatrick, Selectman Representative and Mike Tardiff (Central NH Region Planning Commission), Bobbi Lynn Thomas, Jackson Thomas, Betsy Bosiak, Kate Champney, Art Laro, Wendy Laro, Craig Tufts (Central NH Region Planning Commission), Chad Decker, Dana Gilbert.

Suncook Valley Trail (Committee)

Mike and Craig presented information about developing an Epsom Trail Committee to work on the Epsom portion of the Suncook Valley Rail Trail idea.

- The Trail has been in the planning stages through regional meetings and developed by a group of people, including some Epsom Residents.
- Craig showed the group a map of the estimated path of the rail from Pittsfield to Allenstown. The entire trail would be approx. 115 miles long.
- Part of the Epsom portion of the trail is owned by Epsom and other parts would need easements.
- Would it be a sub-committee of another committee or board or a completely separate. Board appointed committee. Mike will provide some examples of how other towns do this.
- Craig would be the person to assist a committee in planning and organize other aspects of what needs to be done. There is no charge to the Town for this.
- Identify what parcels the trail would affect.
- Matching grants are available (Fed and/or State) through DNCR
- This may involve a 501(c)(3) in order to raise money.

ERZ & ECRC Signs

Cheryl updated the new attendees regarding the signs for the zones and district. Mike and Cheryl met with Mr. D'Amante and Adam Towne regarding placement of the signs on their lots. Even though the sign on Route 4 (D'Amante) would be in the State of NH Right of Way it was best to speak with those private property owners who would be affected by the placement of the sign. Cheryl still plans to speak with the property owners for the Windymere Zone and the Gossville Zones. There is a need for two more signs and per the other BOS members request Cheryl can now update them with the areas that have been sought for placement, and hopefully get permission to purchase two more signs.

Water Main & Warrant Article for Water

Cheryl updated the group on the status of the construction of the current water main being installed on Routes 4 & 28, and at/around the Circle. Mike and Cheryl then updated the group as to the discussions regarding the need to identify a new well location and preserve that land for a future access to town water. Would this be an extension of the current district or a second district? An education session could be scheduled in January 2020 to help people understand what the Warrant Article is for and the purpose.

Rest Area

Cheryl provided Mike and the group with an update from the State regarding the rest area. The State is currently seeking more information for the area. Betsy noted the areas all along this part of Route 4 has scenic easements. Permission has been received from the state in the past for a group of Epsom residents to clean up the area.

New Discussion

- The group discussed the idea of a town newsletter that could help with explanation of the warrant articles and get out information from department heads to the residents about what is going on in town, and maybe even the budget. Some of the group expressed how hard it is for people to get information and be well informed before reading the warrant articles.
- Bobbi Lynn asked about possibly getting some 'beautification' plans going and working with businesses about things like donating flags, hanging plants or plant barrels and the like to spruce up Epsom a bit. She also mentioned a Christmas tree lighting.
- Dana stated that the boy Scouts do a Christmas tree lighting at Webster Park. Cheryl stated it would be nice to get more information to increase participation.

Next Economic Development Meeting scheduled for December 10th at 5:00pm

Epsom Town Office Meeting Room.

Meeting adjourned 7:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Gilpatrick