

Minutes – Economic Development Advisory Committee
Northfield Town Hall
69 Main Street, Northfield MA

September 27, 2023– 5:30-7:00 pm, Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

Submitted by: Sarah Kerns, Chair

Members Present: Jinx Hastings, Sarah Kerns, Steve Stoia, Robin Van der Maat

Members Absent: Nohham Cachet-Schilling

also present: Howard Hastings, Jessica Atwood , Steve Whittaker

Call to order 5:30

1. Review & approve minutes 18SEPT 2023 minutes, motion Jinx, second Steve, Robin abstain.
2. Individual member updates
 - Jinx- sewer department newsletter- All the businesses downtown depend on the sewer
 - Robin- list of current businesses is as complete as she can make it. Now needs more hands. Discussion: Robin will send a page of the spreadsheet she made to each member to avoid over-contact. Members discussed questions to ask if business-owners are willing to talk.
 - Sarah- citizen contacts
 - Citizen who works professionally in group development reached out to discuss group building from scratch
 - Citizen notified that the scenic by-ways and tourist attractions listings are out of date.
 - Trails to main-street, visitor's center w snacks, town signature or theme.
 - Steve- is very interested in the business park, he will do legwork and bring action items to the next meeting
3. Jessica from FRCOG - what FRCOG is doing regionally, and Northfield's place
 - Her office is grant-funded, and has 12 people serving 26 municipalities
 - They have someone in charge of the scenic by-ways listings who we should contact
 - Mentions interest in outdoor rec, creative economy and industrial parks. Mapping of food and farm systems, tech economy and unused business properties.
 - Discusses several grant projects including digital equity plan.
 - Business development resources.
4. Steve Whittaker, Local business owner of national business, states growth is necessary, unbridled growth will kill what we all love about Northfield. Quality of life is essential for employees to want to come here, such as good schools, fun parks for kids, restaurants, and something to do on a saturday night.
Discussion of food truck feasibility.
 - a. Scenic by-ways and tourist attractions listings
 - b. Group Development
5. Adjourn 7pm.