**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** **(DDC) MEETING MINUTES**

**March 18, 2019**

**In Attendance:**  Sheila Orsi (Chair) April Pagnoni (Secretary), Marilynn Borst and Jack McClintock as well as soon to be new member Ethan Melad

**Meeting Opened:** 6:35PM (April Motion Sheila 2nd).

**Minutes from 3-4-19:** Motion made by Marilynn 2nd by April to approve minutes as

written.

**Also in attendance FOTH Members:** Bonnie Milner, Maureen Weslowski, Joan Small,

Edie Hubacz, Eva Brown and Trish Miller. They did amazing job presenting what their

Vision/Dream for North Brookfield is with the Town House being the focal point. North

Brookfield has been deemed by Commonwealth as an under served community and disenfranchised. US has cut out the arts and China has embraced them and have found that creativity helps with leadership of the future in making people more innovative. They want to transform NB to be a model for the country with regard to “Rural Renaisssance”.

We have the fact that George M. Cohan’s childhood home was in North Brookfield and

he became known as Mr. Broadway (has relatives the Benvenuti’s who still live in town. and has national/global recognition as well as Long View Studios who have recorded J Geils, Rolling Stones to Beyonce. They are working with the Architectural Heritage Foundation have been missing the component of what the DDC is trying to do in beautifying downtown and making it more accessible. They have vision to have a 1) Creative Life and Learning Center for the Youth 2) Spirit Center for 60+ age, 3) Making Space for local artisans et al 4) Destination Restaurant go eat then to a show 5) Infant children and family activity center and 6) Physical and MH care facility). They have timeline to have painting completed and Architectural assessment done by Spring-Fall 2019, Fund raising and sponsorship for renovations and buildout Spring-Fall 2020 and NYE 2020 into 2021 Grand opening Gala. Looking for DDC support to go to the BOS with this next and they are meeting with them on 4-9-19 @ 7pm and would like someone from DDC to come and support. They are looking to partner with institutions like MIT, WPI Boston Conservatory which will help create jobs for their graduates. All are in agreement that this is the perfect time for partnership all around. Discussion around parking. Friends think people will not be afraid to park and walk as you have to in the City. Kerrie indicated that CMRPC will be looking at all of this as part of Complete and other grants we are working on through DDC Parkiing Study inventory. May Festival FOTH are going to have booth and working with library and theatre guild etc to promote what is happening downtown. As there were many questions regarding zoning the FOTH said they would come back to meeting on 4-16-19 and April will ask Bill King from the Planning Board to come again and speak of Zoning and Kerrie will bring large zoning maps of town.

**District Location Technical Assistance 2019 Grant Application:** Need to come up with strategy planning. Media and marketing. Thoughts and suggestions? What next?

Kerrie will put something together for meeting on 4-16-19.

**Complete Streets Application:** Next step. Kerrie was asked to obtain clarification that

the grant money will allow us to keep diagonal parking or if it is required that only

parallel parking is allowed. Also Kerrie indicated that Hoamy needs to know when Kim George attended the Complete Streets Training. Sheila emailed her.

Kerrice will have Claire from CMRPC come out and look at each property downtown and will create beautiful picture for us so we can see what it will look like.

**Jacob Knight:** Any one have any contact information about the family or how to get in

touch with trust or family about process for utilizing his illustrations of NB for

marketing purposes. Forgot to discuss at last meeting.

**Properties to keep eye on: Cook property** is owed by the Lamountain Trust (family) of Oxford .For Sale. **Langevin Red Building:** Mr. Bagda from Paxton. He would like to sell this property. Richard Paquette contact person perhaps? April will reach out. Allegedly not on historic register of any kind. **McGrail Property:** Is this a building on historic register in the Town? Brendan Avery or Gene Caille perhaps? Planning Board has been talking to Mark McGrail about this. Gas station convenience store? **Also 193-197 North Main Street** Mark Kablack, Attorney (we believe representing 3rd party) is

interested in buying for mixed use concerns about parking and zoning. He was very intrigued by what he heard and will be reaching out to Bill King from Planning Board.

Ethan expressed interest in property as well.

**USDA:** Lyndon Nichols, may have programs that may be appropriate for NB. REDI grants. He will be here for the meeting on 4-16-19 meeting.

**Main Street Principles:** Mainstreet.org Marilynn provided log in. FriendsNorth BrookfieldTownHouse and password is Restoration185. What would be solid

fit for North Brookfield. Inventory of what is downtown. Look at this.

**Business listing from town:** We received list last week but does not appear to be

entire list of businesses in town.

**Non-profit organizations in town:** Sheila Buzzell and Tara Perry working on this too?

Do we have an answer?

**Memorial Day:** Jack brought some thing David Libby Jr. Is looking to try to do to coincide with Memorial Day Festivities and Parade. There may be some people from NB that had to do with creating the Constitution. He will forward mail to us. We have it

is there anything DDC should be doing?

**Safe Routes Grant:** Talk about committing to doing something with “The Path”. Kerrie

will talk to Janet further about this.

**MA Historic Meeting:** April 30th Doyle Conservation Center CMRPC and MRPC

hosting it 10-2 about historic preservation.

**Patronicity Grant:** MA Development. Pick number like $10,00 total Take a video and

garner $5000 and MA Development will match it.

**MDI (MA downtown initiative) DHDC:** Opens in July very competitive can help with

marketing an branding.

**Next Meeting:** 4-1-19 @ 6:30pm

**Adjourn:** April made motion Sheila 2nd 8:40pm