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

**April 16, 2019**

**In Attendance:**  Sheila Orsi (Chair), April Pagnoni (Secretary), Marilynn Borst, Jac McClintock and Ethan Melad

**Not in Attendance:** Jim Fraser

**Also in Attendance:** Kerrie Salwa, CMRPC and Lyndon Nichols, USDA

**Meeting Opened:** 6:34PM (Sheila Motion April 2nd).

**Minutes from 4-1-19:** Motion made by Jack 2nd by Marilynn approve minutes as

written. All in favor.

**Ethan Melad:**  Sworn in by Town Clerk welcomed as official member and thanked for

his willingness to embark on this endeavor with the DDC..

**Jim Fraser:**  Sheila did not receive response from Mr. Fraser with regard to his interest

in remaining on DDC. We all expressed that we hope he is recovering well.

**FOTH:** Bonnie did the presentation and was well received by BOS. John and Dale were

enthusiastic and are willing to put together letter of support.

**Rail Depot:** Town has expressed purchasing back the Rail Depot from Ann Neal. John

Tripp from BOS has approached her would like to let her have space in it for a gallery

and would like to redo the platform and maybe down the road have a bistro or something

in it.

**Master Plan for Town:**  NB is in need of one. BOS talked about it and looking for

people to serve on new committee. Sheila mention Jim Fraser as he was on the last one.

**USDA:** Lyndon Nichols from USDA Rural Development spoke to DDC about grant opportunities that might be good for the town. Federal agency that gives funding opportunities to small communities. Construction loans for buildings ie: police, fire library also assist with water and sewer lines and lease hold improvement loans. Water

and sewer information to be shared with Jason Benoit. They help with equipment loans

as well. Quaboag Valley Community Development is who they work with the towns with

technical assistance. REDI grants very competetive. Suggested that at some point

perhaps sending letter to Senator Gobi as chair of Natural resources for assistance with $ for rail trail. They assist with farm energy programs that want to be energy efficient can

apply for grants to be more efficient. Look at populations under 7,000. Also assistance

with seniors for housing loans.

**DLTA:** Nothing new.

**Complete Streets Application:** Email from Leslie from BOS with regard to information

regarding the portal. Sheila said she would follow up on this so we would not have any further road blocks. She will take over as the contact for the Town and will attend the next session of the complete streets training program and Kerrie will send information pertaining to the next training. Jack offered to go with Sheila as well. Appears that it has not been completed by Highway department as of yet.

Claire Bayler came to town with Kerrie and photographed all down town, alleys etc. She looked at the trail we are looking to have constructed. She took lots of pictures of Langevin Red Building. Subway owner was very interested in what they were doing. Claire saw the vision too. They have an ariel photographer coming out on 4-28-19 to do

drone footage of the town. They will take pics of the rail trail, pool at town forest, the

route to the school “the path”. Other suggestions are appreciated. From these Claire will

do renderings of the town. Mid May, Kerrie with DDC will set up meeting with

business owners and landlords to tell them what we are trying to do and look for input.

It was discussed that we will advertise in local papers, facebook etc to invite them. Jack

offered to do this and will get something together. The Town meeting is scheduled for 5-

10-19 and we can have it mentioned there what we are doing and the date of the meeting.

We tentatively are looking to do it on 5-15 @ 6pm at the Senior Center. Can perhaps

advertise it at May 4 festival.

**Jacob Knight:** Anything more?.

**Surveying of Historical Buildings in Town:** Who is on Historical Commission in Town. (John Krussell, Brendan Avery, Mike Hubacz)? How to go about getting buildings surveyed. Gene Caille? MA Historical Commission?

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

hosting it 10-2 about historic preservation. NB does not have a delineated Historical

District. MA Cultural Resources Initiative . NBK.A

NB is right to Farm Community perhaps we can get some historical signage.

**Schedule:** 4-29-19, 5-13-19, meeting 5-15-19, Tuesday 5-28-19, 6-10-19, 6-24-19, 7-15-

19 and 7-29-19.

**MDI:** Kerrie will forward to April. Perhaps something we can look at this year. .

**Old Business and Grant opportunities**

**New Business**

**Next Meeting:** 4-29-19 @ 6:30pm

**Adjourn:** April made motion Jack 2nd 8:23pm