North Brookfield Downtown Development Committee (DDC) Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2019

**In Attendance:** Sheila Orsi, Ethan Melad, Marilynn Borst, Kerri Salwa, CMRPC & Bill King, Planning Board Absent: John McClintock, April Pagnoni

**Meeting Opened**: 6:45pm

**Prior Minutes**: By-passed to next meeting.

**Tools for Dealing with Historic Properties:** Marilynn attended this meeting and gave report.

* Atty Gen. could help with information needed to acquire properties.

**Planning Board:** Bill King

How do we adjust the downtown zoning & by-laws to be more uniform and business friendly?

* Adjust specific by-law that conflicts with another (2,000 vs 4,000 sqft) adjust the typo to read 4,000 sqft
* Downtown: Business Overlay vs Business Central Districts?
  + Parking within 200ft: Can we expand this by-law, ie, shared offsite, separate parking by special permit, parking percentage update or change.
  + Zoning & Parking: spoke of Battery Park in Boston – offsite parking within walking distance to shops and eateries.
* Bill mentioned that he is working with Sue Lyons regarding updating the Master Plan

**Grants:** Kerri Salwa

Kerri mentioned a grant that may be available for the North Brookfield Downtown area: Co-working/Shared Space: up to $250,000 with a $25,000 feasibility.

Kerri spoke of the overall concept to be included in the NB Strategic Plan. Main catagories include:

* Complete Streets
* Townhouse Project
* Downtown Redevelopment
* Connecting the Trails in NB
* Expanding Business

The CMRPC has the data, met with businesses and has the aerial photos as well for plan development. Short attainable goals that were mentioned included working with the Highway Dept to place Pedestrian Cones, Reline Sidewalks & Streets as well as talking with the NB Beautification committee regarding hanging planting baskets on the street light poles in town.

Sparking white lights in the townhouse windows was also mentioned as a beautification factor.

Eileen Gugle is a grant writer. Contacting her would be a good start to get on the NBDDC board. Need more information to contact her.

**Close of Meeting:** Motion to close meeting made by Sheila Orsi at 8:08pm, Seconded by Ethan Melad.

Meeting minutes submitted by Sheila Orsi

August 18, 2019