North Brookfield Downtown Development Committee (DDC) Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2020

**In Attendance:** Sheila Orsi, Ethan Melad, Marilynn Borst, John McClintock
Absent:
Guests: Sharon Donovan, Dawn Sedlier, Matt Sedlier, Glenna Stocks & Christie Cournoyer

**Meeting Opened**: 6:35 pm

**Approval of Minutes**: Moved to next meeting as minutes were not available.

Welcomed Glenna and Christie to the meeting. We each introduced ourselves and gave a quick overview of the status of the committee.

**Old Business:**1. Sheila talked to about Matt, Dawn & Sharon’s membership status and approval.

2. Marilynn discussed the progress of resurrecting the Historical Commission (HC). Her research has lead her to the point where she needs to talk to Jim Buzzell, who was the last known Vice President of the HC and reach out to Brandon Avery who is the current president of the Historical Museum.

Marilynn also touched base on the Walker Block as it is currently for sale. It seems the building needs more engineering work than was first thought. The hope is that the building might become more affordable due to the amount of work that needs to be done, or that it might be simply donated to the Friends of the Townhouse. Marilynn read an email from Jim Buzzell regarding the current state of the Walker Block building.

3. Ethan gave a quick review of the Pop-Up Application with Commonwealth Places.

**New Business**1. Sharon brought up the V shaped land area located south of where Gilbert St and King St connect. It was mentioned that it may be owned by the people who own the Salem Cross Inn in West Brookfield. Sharon would like to consider North Brookfield utilizing this area for a park, or something similar.

2. The DDC would like to know about the projects in town and where the committees are at in their projects. Sheila stated she would e-mail the Board of Selectmen to request a meeting where all the committees give report to the BOS at the same time. We discussed the idea of this meeting being a Bi-Annual event, such as March and September.

3. We discussed how to best use the Facebook page. Dawn suggested the possibilities of video clips regarding what is happening around town. She plans to look further into a format for this.

4. Jack was commended on the articles that were submitted to the Quaboag Current, the T & G and the Spencer New Leader regarding the 2019 Citizen Planner Award that Sheila Orsi accepted for the group.

Homework:

1. Ethan and Sheila plan to meet Kerri Salwa during the week for lunch to discuss 2020 CMRPC and DDC projects.
2. Glenna plans to talk to NBHelps regarding DDC involvement
3. Sharon is working on accessing the benches in the Main street area to see how we can improve the pedestrian experience.
4. Matt & Dawn are working on the FB video content.
5. Marilynn is continuing her research with the HC and its goals.

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for February 18, 2020

**Close of Meeting:** Motion to close meeting made by Sheila Orsi at 8:04 pm, Seconded by Ethan Melad.

Meeting minutes submitted by Sheila Orsi

March 2, 2020