

North Brookfield Downtown Development Committee (DDC) Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2020

Due to the current Massachusetts recommendations of social distancing and gathering limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held both in-person at the North Brookfield Police Station conference room as well as Online through the Zoom.com video conferencing application.

In Attendance: Sheila Orsi, Ethan Melad, Sharon Donovan, Marilynn Borst,

Absent: John McClintock, Glenna Stocks

Guests: Chet Lubelczyk from Finance Committee, Eva Brown from the Friends of the Townhouse, and Brandon Avery from the Master Plan Committee and Historical Museum.

Meeting Opened: 6:35pm

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were not available for approval.

Old Business:

1. Commonwealth Places Grant: Outdoor, Covid-Friendly Movie Night.

Friday, October 2nd, 2020 Movie night was a great success with The Adams Family Movie showcasing. About 14 vehicles were in attendance with families appropriately distanced in their vehicles. Oct. 9th will feature The Black Panther and Oct 18th, we plan to view The Princess Bride. The movie was shown on a large inflatable screen on the empty lot to the right of the Police Station on School Street.

2. Marilyn brought up the fact that the Cultural Council is looking for a grant to host Covid-Friendly musical events in the summer. She is looking for connections with regards to local bands.

3. Business Bites: These are 10 minute video shorts interviewing town business owners. These “Bites” air live on Wed Evening every other week or so on the NB DDC Facebook page. Last week we featured Glenna Stocks from Stocks Creative and next week we plan on hosting Tina Floria from 4 Season Nutrition and the week after, look for Shane Chabot from Country Auto.

4. Complete Street Update: On Sept, 23, 2020, Sheila, current chair of the NB DDC, Jason and Kim from the NB Highway Dept and Gemma and Ian from the CMRPC, joined a zoom video conference call to discuss Complete Streets projects to apply for the 2021 application deadline of May 2021. Jason stated he would like to see an engineered plan for the intersection of North Main St, Summer St and School St. He stated it would make the projects easier to handle with a “master plan” of sorts to create the final street scape in the Downtown area. Gemma and Ian thought that partnering this area with the section of School Street that runs to the Railway station house would allow it to become part of an EJ, Environmental Justice area, making our chances that much better at being awarded the grant for next year. Jason stated he would speak to one of

his Engineering connections to get a sense of what the bit might cost the town , then speak to the BOS regarding the funding.

5. Marilyn brought up the awareness of Ushers Disease and how NB is already an Age & Dementia friendly town. Incorporating yellow and zebra striped pedestrian street signage might be something to look into.

New Business

1. October 13, 2020 – The BOS requested a report from the NB DDC. Sheila plans to attend this meeting to give report.

2. Nov. 6, at 7pm There will be a Special Town Meeting regarding some changes in the by-laws that are up for public approval. The most concerning to the NB DDC is the change regarding Drive ups in the Downtown District Overlay.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for October 19, 2020

Close of Meeting: Motion to close meeting made by Sheila Orsi at 7:12pm, Seconded by Ethan Melad.

Meeting minutes submitted by Sheila Orsi

October 19, 2020