

Kennebunk Economic Development Committee

Minutes

Thursday – April 7, 2022, 4:30 P.M.

Room 300

Attending Members: June Huston (Chair), Maureen Flaherty (Vice Chair), Gary Dugas, Steve Sawyer, and Randy Gates.

Members Absent: None

Also in attendance: Mike Pardue (Town Manager), Joel Downs (Finance Director), Chris Osterrieder, P.E. (Director of Community Development), and Dan Robinson (Town Assessor).

- 1) Open Meeting by June H. at 4:32 PM.
 - 2) Minutes from March 3, 2022 – Motion by Maureen F., second by June H. – approved as corrected – all in favor.
 - 3) Chamber update: brief report read by June H.:
 - a. Job Fair on March 28 had 125 retired workers attending. Teen attendance was down (possibly applying on line).
 - b. Starting 4/20/22 (every Wednesday), Brad Currie (SBA) will hold office hours at the Chamber. Drop in or by appointment.
 - c. Businesses are reporting an early up tick, some saying it is the best ever.
 - d. The Chamber just posted a job opening for Alaina Tridente's replacement (she is moving on to KSB).
 - 4) Property Taxes – Dan Robinson discussed with the board:
 - a. 90% of value is in residential, 7% commercial.
 - b. Cost/benefit of raising commercial percentage.
 - c. Effect of non-taxable property.
 - d. Various metrics – how to evaluate and track different strategies.
 - e. How the Town has grown in recent years – effect of COVID.
 - f. High cost of home purchasing.
 - 5) Connectivity update – Steve S:
 - a. Looking into options & needs for new cell towers – will have a report soon.
 - b. Internet - Tilson will have a draft system design report soon.
 - 6) Branding Update – Maureen F.:
 - a. Pan Atlantic will have a 200 page report ready for review.
 - b. Information gathered will not include thoughts from recently arrived residents – effect of COVID.
 - 7) Workforce – June H:
 - a. Discussed public transportation system – what we have in place, what should be added and who it will benefit.
 - 8) Adjourn at 6:31 PM
- respectfully submitted: Gary Dugas