

Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting

Monday, January 27, 2020

5:30 PM

Bucksport Town Office (Council Chambers)

Minutes

1. Roll Call:

- A. Present: Mark Eastman, Kathy Downes, Jim Morrison, Jim Boothby, Ron Russell, and Frank Dunbar.
- B. Absent: John Wardwell, John Paul LaLonde, Rob Carmichael, and Daphne Eyerer

2. Nomination of Chair:

- A. Jim Morrison nominated Mark Eastman. No other councilor was nominated. Motion for Mark Eastman to be chair of the committee passed 5-0.

3. Public Comment for items not on the agenda

- A. Steve St. Peter Jr asked if the committee would look into getting more E/V chargers in town due to their being only 1 charger in Town. Mark suggested that we look into adding some in the soon to be developed new parking lot off of Central St. Ron mentioned that Volkswagen because of the Diesel Scandal Settlement had money set aside for E/V chargers to be placed around the country and that would be worth looking into. The committee recommended that Rich look into possible funding sources. There was no further public comment.

4. Discuss the vacant Chamber of Commerce seat; does rep just fill the seat or does the CED board appoint or does the Services Committee & Town Council appoint

- A. Jim Morrison mentioned that any nominees would need to go through the Services Committee for Appointment. Mark agreed with Jim Morrison.
- B. Rich nominated Dick Petersen from Bucksport Bay Area Chamber of Commerce as per Town Code Section 41 Committees states that a member of the Chamber shall be on the committee.
- C. Rich suggested that the Town Code Section 41 Committees should be updated to include that a member of Main Street Bucksport shall be on the committee. The committee already has multiple members from MSB but it should be addressed in the code for future reference.

5. Status of Marketing/Branding Campaign

- A. Rich provided a copy of the RFP and reviewed the dates with the committee. Rich mentioned he has received interest from firms out of Bangor, Augusta, Portland and Boston.

6. Status of Potential Housing Developments (Senior Housing)

- A. Rich mentioned the 33 acre parcel identified in the ADAPT Plan was not currently on the market. Rich mentioned the Park Street/Broadway Extension project was on hold.
- B. Rich said the Silver Lake Estates has 42 available lots for mobile homes, doublewides and modular that will be ready for the spring of 2020. The 43rd lot is a community center on site that is almost complete.
- C. Ron said an article in the Bangor Daily News said that there are subsidies for subsidizing housing incentives are winding down. Ron wanted to confirm if Bucksport had any of the subsidized housing the article referenced?
- D. Rich said that Services Committee would be taking on the role of finding funding for household improvements for citizens who would qualify. The program funding is issued by Downeast Community Partners.

7. Request for Committee to review proposed Business Grant Program

- A. Rich provided a draft copy of a “Proposed Town of Bucksport Façade Improvement Grant Program” and asked the committee to review it and make recommendations, changes or edits for the next meeting.
- B. Don Houghton asked if a business took advantage of this grant program would their property be immediately reassessed. Rich said he would check with the assessor.

8. “Warm Your Heart in Bucksport” Promotion

- A. Rich provided a handout of the flyer that was going to be placed in the Bucksport Enterprise, Weekly Packet and the Republican Journal for the next 2 weeks which is being paid for by the Community & Economic Development Department.

9. New Business

- A. Upcoming Meeting topics
 - a. February – will go through Marketing Applications
 - b. March – funding requests from Economic Development Groups
 - c. April – LED street lights

10. Adjournment

- A. Jim made a motion at 6:23pm. Mark seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.