

## TOWN OF WASHINGTON

### Washington Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, October 17th, 2023 at 3:00 pm

Minutes are subject to approval of the Economic Development Committee

**Members Present:** Robyn Gray, Rudy Montgelas, Trisha McMahon, Fran Keilty, Jim Brinton

**Public:** Liz Paige, Liz Fenton, Ann Jamieson

**Staff:** Michelle Gorra- Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. **Call to order:** 3:03 pm by Michelle Gorra
2. **Approval of Minutes of September Meeting Minutes:** tabled until next meeting
3. **Report on activities of Economic and Community Development Coordinator**
  - a. **New home owner mailings & email sign-ups-** Michelle has to go to the town clerk's office to check this information, so she'll do that. The email side has been going well. We got 24 new emails at the Harvest Fest, still getting a few emails from the tax inserts.
  - b. **Newsletter-** December 1st. Due date for articles is November 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. **Arts Council-** Had the photo exhibit at the town hall, had around 100 people come on the opening day. Also collected a lot of emails and contacts. Was great for the arts council to meet the members of the EDC at the Harvest Fest. Got their new logo, and their goal at the moment is to spread awareness is who they are and what they do.
  - d. **Community Center-** stalled a bit. The pricing we got prior to the pandemic has gone up significantly. Met a week ago to regroup, currently too many big expenditures with the ambulance and the school.
  - e. **Affordable Housing-** Lack of housing is such an issue currently, have a habitat homebuyers' workshop after our housing meeting.
  - f. **Winter Lights-** Working on with the WBA, going to send out the fundraiser letter which is privately funded by businesses in town.
4. **Old Business**
  - a. **Recap of the Harvest Festival** - Thank you to Trisha for helping to make the handout explaining who we are. Not many questions about who the EDC is, the people who came to the table were mostly out of towners, who came from near and far. Liz Paige from Five Janes reported there were probably around 2,500 people at the festival, hard to get a truly accurate number since some people didn't take the ticket when entering. 54 vendors, a little bit more than last year. Organizations that signed up - 61 % were businesses, 22% nonprofits, 15% schools, town was 2% percent. Parking always comes up in the feedback. Some of the vendors were having trouble with the Wi-Fi depending where they were staying. Possibly in the future the boy scouts can help direct the parking. Next year they would like more staffing around the train station to make the line run more smoothly. The Harvest Festival posters sold for \$20 and all the proceeds went to the foodbank. Going to require vendors in the future to have their tents staked down so there's no fly a ways. Lots of Gilmore Girl visitors coming to town from Texas, California, Michigan and all over coming to town this fall.
5. **New Business**

6. **Report of WBA & Selectmen on items not on the agenda-** The town has a meeting tonight at 7: 30 for the funds to support the ambulance. Holiday in the depot will be coming up, work in progress at this point. Going to put an article out about shopping local, Fran mentioned the article should mention how the money you spend moves around from business to business.
7. **Visitors**
8. **Adjournment Motion to adjourn** by Rudy M at 4:02pm all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amanda Reale  
Selectman's Assistant

Recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbtFVvencis>