

## **Economic Development Feb 13th meeting**

### **Agenda**

- Each sub-committee to update the group on progress

**Attendance** - In Person-Rick Blackshaw, Dan Bonin, Kellie Durkee, Cory Flint, Phil Harrell, Lisa Hoekstra, Tony Marino. Participating via phone: Pat Balch. The meeting was held at Prospect Hill Antiques from 5:30-7:30pm.

### **1. Events Subcommittee (Dan, Kellie, Lisa)**

- Dan
  - Dan spoke with Steve (recs department) all for more events-group would have to help
  - If we hitch our wagon to rec-then we can do alcohol-makes it much easier
  - Memorial Day->Fitness-Hoptimystic-Poker Run would be a great event-(could be boat poker run too)
  - Street races are hard to coordinate
  - Needs to be one coordinated calendar (too many clashing calendars)
  - Tony-sponsor a cause (cancer, for example) as way to generate interest
- Kellie
  - Spoke to Monihyan->no talk about doing the Chowder challenge this year
  - Surveyed Sunapee Middle/High School kids to find out what they wanted
  - Physical-mini golf, 5Ks, cancer run, volleyball, gym
  - Community->fair, better food, movies at the Livery
  - Competition->5K, fishing derby (ice), egg drop, skate competition, basketball court
  - Other-Bakery, arcade, shops open more
  - Volunteers->ton of kids that are willing to volunteer-needs to be a central calendar
- Lisa
  - Spoke to Chief Cobb
  - 5K Memorial Day weekend-concern about weekend that is packed (could we do Sunday morning as opposed to Sat morning?), parking management, EMS management. Maybe could be Monday morning.
  - Stretch out calendar of events-

- Anything that requires police to add detail will be additional costs and will be on us
- Fire pit in harbor area-loved the idea, but fire hazard
- Snowmobiles-could park on the ice in the harbor
- Mid-August lake event-like a kayak race or water events (Steve McGrath)
- Let's pick two events and do them well as opposed to trying to do too much

## **2. Underutilized spaces Subcommittee->(Pat, Tony, Cory)**

- Limited spaces in the harbor that need to be redeveloped
- Precision Machine-Reach out to Mr. Wiggins about ideas to use building to celebrate the heritage of manufacturing/the trades in Sunapee
  - Eg., Turn it into vocation school
- Empty parking lot next to Livery
  - Need a boutique hotel maybe where the parking lot was
- Woodbine property-SHA bought that yesterday!
  - Looking to the town to brainstorm, bring ideas
- Sky Lucas' property-if that were for sale that could be a great opportunity for bed/breakfast or some other business
- Empty parking lot on corner next to Historical Society->suggest some ideas of what we could do

## **3. Signage Subcommittee (Rick, Pam)**

- No updates from the signage committee but Rick asked to be connected to signage subcommittee members from the Riverwalk committee.

## **4. Business Viability Subcommittee (John, Pete, Phil)**

- What we need to make businesses viable
  - Deed restrictions to reduce the tax burden of the properties
    - Shareholders lose
    - Town loses revenue, but could make it up in taxes from the businesses in the building
  - Encourage mixed-use (rental income/commercial)-apartments
  - Town is an obstacle to development and expansion for harbor businesses and needs to be more business friendly

- Zoning and planning boards/laws need to get more business friendly
      - Parking is an issue
      - Eg, Quack Shack needed refrigeration space
    - Need more consistency in board rules
  - Parking zoning rules need to relaxed
    - Town overestimating the parking that is required
    - Or we need to find alternative parking offsite
    - Need historic district zoning for setbacks, parking
- What businesses would we suggest the harbor needs to make it vibrant year round
  - Boutique hotel-20-30 room
  - Another restaurant (3rd?)-Tacos/Burritos
  - Store to buy souvenirs, gifts, clothes (Rhonda)
  - Store to buy essentials-convenience stores-six boutique (Fentons)
  - Bakery (Blue Loon)/coffee shop/bakery (don't have it)-Bend at Sugar River
    - Fresh Flowers
  - Artist working space would work
  - Tanner's old place->organic coffee, really good wine
  - Ice cream (Quack)
  - Brewhouse (Hoptimysitc)
- Need Sunapee Harbor Association
  - To get people here need one association that can coordinate all events/business initiatives in the harbor
- Outdoor recreation
  - Connect Sunapee to the broad rail trail system in Newport/Newbury so that Sunapee could be destination for Snowmobilers, Hikers, Bikers using the rail trails.
  - E.g., Refinery is a destination for snowmobilers. Huge opportunity for Sunapee.

## Next steps

- Sub-committees to refine ideas presented and consolidate into a prioritized set of recommendations for next March 13th Economic Dev Committee
- Phil to send out economic analysis and parking analysis attachments to the committee (**see attached**)
- Phil to meet with other committee facilitators to find connection points (**done. will send out minutes in a separate email**)
- Phil to introduce Rick to signage sub-committee members (**done**)