

Jaffrey Economic Development Council
Draft Minutes 10/21/20

9:00 am VIA ZOOM

Present: Peter Chamberlain, Chair, Larry Alvarez, Dominique Cassie, Cathy Furze, Sam Hackler, Ed Merrell, Stephanie Porter, Jack Belletete

Staff: Jo Anne Carr, Director

1. Budgets

Budgets will be developed over the next 2 months. The largest project is for reconstruction of Stratton Road and Peterborough Street sidewalks. The project grant funding has been approved for preliminary design and final engineering with construction bids to be out October of 2021. Matching funds will be rolled over to FY 21 from the DT TIFD. Given the timing we expect construction in spring/summer of 2022. Stratton Road will get a skim coat this year. Paving at Community Field was suggested as a new project. Jo Anne will get an estimate from DPW. Also discussed was an increase to TEAM Jaffrey. Note that the final bond payment for the bridge at the Stone Bridge TIFD is FY 2021. Jo Anne will send budget worksheets for next meeting.

2. Broadband

The request for information was sent to the three wireline providers of internet service in town – Consolidated Communications, Comcast and WiValley. The committee is planning to present a proposal to Town Meeting in March of 2021. We anticipate public meetings in January February. A postcard to every postal address will be mailed shortly inviting people to participate in the survey. This data is being incorporated into a map illustrating unserved and under served areas in town.

3. WW Cross update

EPA's Emergency Planning and Response Branch has agreed to assess and mitigate the effects of the fire. They will be conducting the assessment later in October. The intent would be to stabilize the site and remove building materials. A structural engineer will make a recommendation on the extent of demo that may be necessary. It is not expected that EPA will assume the full responsibility of removing the building in its entirety.

4. Other Business/Elections

Peter suggested that given the late date in the year, to simply leave the officers as is until next March when terms are renewed. Moved by Furze, seconded by Merrell.

Jack raised concerns regarding the empty spaces at the plaza. The liquor store (4,800 sq ft) was closed due in part to low revenues and the higher volume stores in Rindge and Peterborough. The former Family Dollar space at 6,000 sq ft leaves a major gap. Jack indicated a need to rethink these empty spaces, and would help with rent/fit up for a new tenant. Discussion generally agreed on a food store/small grocer. Jo Anne will reach out to individuals who have had an interest in developing a general store/grocery.

Also discussed was the need for a Town business directory which includes number of employees. Jo Anne noted that the Attorney General's office would have a list of registered businesses and the Employment Security office has numbers of employees. Note: Jaffrey does not have a local business registry. Jo Anne requested the business list from the AGs office, that file is pending. The link to the NH EMLI data is here:

<https://www2.nhes.nh.gov/GraniteStats/SessionServlet?page=CEW.jsp&SID=6&city=000308&cityName=Jaffrey>