

Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 17 2024

Attendees: Sue Clary John Bardwell
Larry Haber Kay Tomasi

1. Sue on ongoing initiatives

- i. Linke Properties – Sue and Larry met with Robert Henke, Washington County Head of the Board of Supervisors. Discussion covered how important these properties are to the Town’s future, and resulted in a plan to arrange for a meeting between Sue, Larry, Robert, and the County Treasurer and County Attorney. No date has yet been set. In advance of this meeting, Larry prepared an overview to the attendees including questions for the meeting. We received responses to these questions from the County Treasurer. Larry is going to follow up with the EPA to identify total liens and study status.
- ii. Community Newsletter - Sue discussed the initial meeting with Darren Johnson of the Greenwich Journal representatives which will result in recreating the Salem Press on a bi-monthly basis. Potential launch date is before school starts in the fall. We will need to identify individuals to work on this.
- iii. Grant Funding – Sue talked about how Cambridge received approximately \$2.4 million from NY Forward for additional development. There are several locations Sue feels which could be renovation/revitalization candidates: Current Food Pantry, Bancroft Library, Fort Salem Theatre, and Historic Courthouse. We agreed to think on who would need to be involved in this project to develop the grant request documentation.
- iv. Co-Op Extension Organization – This is a group looking to relocate their offices. Sue is looking for ways/locations in Salem to propose to them.

2. Project Updates

1. Georgi – Larry
 - i. Brenda presented the progress to the Town Board after the meeting on Insurance Requirements. Laura is reviewing the current rental agreements and forms to insure they are or will be made to comply with the insurance requirements.
 - ii. As per the Lawyer, we need named individuals for required Charter roles. After discussions, these are the Roles and individuals: President: Sandi Haber. Vice-President: Brenda Levey, Treasurer: Mary Menard, Secretary: Laura Dunham, General Board Member: Larry Haber.
 - iii. Event planning at the Georgi is continuing.
 - iv. The fallen hydrangea tree which was stood up is showing signs of life.

- v. The current Georgi laptop will be issued to Sandi.
 - vi. A memo on Invasive Species has been received, and a meeting is being planned with all involved parties to discuss.
2. Sewer – Kay
- i. We discussed wanting to develop a marketing/communication strategy for the Sewer project. John and Larry volunteered for this effort.
3. Climate Smart – Yvette
- i. Sue has been working to update the information required to file for grant monies .
4. Economic Development - Larry
- i. Linke properties – See above.
 - ii. Salem Food Store
 - 1. Larry has contacted the Winslow's to see if they remain interested in creating a Salem Food Store. No date for discussion has been set. Additionally, Melissa Curtis has also identified a desire to do the same. Discussions will proceed.
 - iii. YMCA
 - 1. Larry is continuing to try to follow up with the YMCA to obtain information on next steps and what programs might be of interest to Salem.
 - iv. Salem Community Fund Dinner
 - 1. As part of the Community Fund Dinner, Dan Snyder received information on what Salem needs from the attendees. Larry is reaching out to obtain that list and compare it to what we have already developed to identify any addition needs we might have not heard about.
 - v. Town Board Member Meetings - Continued to try to schedule and talk with Salem Town Board members on their views of what and how to maintain and grow Salem and Shushan. Remaining members for meetings are Howard and Brenda.
 - vi. Shushan Development – Met with Mike Snow about new use for his building opposite Yushak's. Have suggested he develop a business plan for sharing with Salem/Shushan residents and possible grant monies from Salem Community Fund.
5. Next Steps
- i. Identify participants for Salem/Shushan Vision document
 - ii. Continue to schedule meetings with other groups
 - 1. Library
 - 2. Firehouses/Rescue Squad
 - 3. Real Estate companies (in progress)

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4. Salem School
5. Town Board Members

Next Meeting: July 15, 2024 9:00 a.m. at Salem Town Hall