

**North Yarmouth Economic Development and Sustainability Committee
November 12, 2015
Minutes**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. We were missing several members. In attendance were Amy Horstmann, Katie Murphy, Pat Gilligan (arrived late), Mark Girard, Steve Morrison. Audience: Paul Napolitano

2. Review/approve minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 10/7/15 were reviewed. The date of the meeting needs to be corrected. The minutes were approved with the date correction. (Steve moved, Amy seconded. All in favor). Katie will check with Rosemary to see if we needed a quorum to approve the minutes. If so, we can post the minutes of 10/7/15 provisionally on the town website. If not, we can post the minutes on the town website.

3. Review EDSC mission/goals: As a result of looking over our mission/goals, it was agreed to

- invite Darla Hamlin as president of the North Yarmouth Business Association to our next meeting (Dec. 9) to discuss commonalities.
- ask that the North Yarmouth “Welcome to North Yarmouth” material be put on the town website (Curbside pickup schedule, farmers market info [Cumberland], Homestead Exemption application, Maine drivers license info, a sheet about North Yarmouth history, a town trails map, a street map, and voters registration info). This is a part of our town brand, Start Here.
- Focus on the positive: watch for the opening of the Purple House (Krista Kern Desjarlais). Highlight/celebrate not just this business, but all businesses in town. Do this through letting the press know (Alex Lear, Forecaster). Consider a “business of the month” on town website? Ask NYBA to take this on as a project? (which may increase their membership).
- Re-visit our potential association with GrowSmart, and their “making Headway in Your Community” program
- Continue to look at what other communities like us are doing—Steve Morrison will bring info next time re: Georgetown, which has an economic development committee.
- Join with Yarmouth, Pownal to promote our trails, etc. How to do that? In conjunction with the Rec Commission, with RRCT?

4. Update: video project: Susanne was not in attendance to update us.

5. Update: referendum vote; what happens next: We discussed in general that it's difficult to know how the town will go forward, considering the recent referendum vote. We have no details yet. The BOS workshop about this will be 11/19/15 at 6 PM. The next step is to craft an RFP. The process is a wide open one. The successful plan needs to be economically viable. Do we encourage developers and architects to submit plans, based on the RFP. Pat: "I want to get behind something and see success in this town."

6. Future projects/guest speakers, etc. (grants; GrowSmart, NYBA, others): Amy noted the lack of activities/center for young people in town. She is looking for grant opportunities. She will pursue the Citizens Institute on Rural Design, a grant opportunity forwarded to the EDSC by Audrey, who was told about it by GPCOG: Communities with populations less than 50,000 are eligible to apply for \$45,000 in planning technical assistance with only a \$10,000 match (cash and/or in-kind). Amy will work with help from Rosemary.

Amy also showed us information that can be valuable for our town, from the Orton Family Foundation, "Community Heart and Soul:" <http://www.orton.org/heart-soul>

A family friendly, intergenerational town center is the goal.

Businesses, recreation, etc. Amy suggested developing a Halloween in North Yarmouth. Most kids leave town and go to other denser neighborhoods for trick or treating. We have few places in town with that kind of density. This kind of idea would be a good project for the Events Committee.

A wide ranging discussion followed re: commercial properties available for sale in town, why they are not moving, traffic through town (7,000 cars/daily); that we have traffic but no population density in the town center; the question about what kind of business/es would we want in the center of town, Steve suggested that we as a town could focus on that as a goal and approach a Rosemont, a New Gloucester Store kind of business.

7. Set future meetings dates. December 9, January 12, February 23.

8. Adjourn: By acclaim at 8:15 PM