

EEC Minutes 8/1/17, meeting held at Latham Tavern

In attendance: Nils Johnson, Earl Strout, Sue MacKenzie, Chris Ramsden, Dee Scanlan.

Not in attendance: Mike Smith, Manton Copeland, Jonathan Voegele, David Shafer

Guest of committee: Tracy Hutchins, Executive Director of the Hanover Chamber of Commerce

Committee members present at 5pm, guest present at 5:30pm

- Committee members briefly discussed some items from the previous LEEC meeting, notably the potential changes at Pond View Apartments and the possibility of creating a group for business owners in Lyme
- Upon Tracy's arrival the discussion turned to the current situation in Lyme; Tracy explained the situation she had helped with in Milford NH and committee members described the situation in Lyme as being quite different due to the town's size and that business expansion was extremely limited due to geographical features and strict zoning; she mentioned that often it is good to start with finding ways for current businesses in the area to expand and that that might be the case in Lyme
- Tracy offered numerous options that we in Lyme might not be aware of, such as the fact that we likely fall under the purview of the Hanover Chamber of Commerce, that Grafton County has an economic director that we might make contact with, that the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development might also be good to be in contact with, that Arnett Consulting in Concord has experience with "form based" zoning and could provide a land inventory and ideas for a new zoning code, and that the NH Charitable Foundation awards grants for this purpose.
- She mentioned that Norwich has an active business group that regularly holds small events on the town square to raise their visibility; they exist under the umbrella of the Hanover Chamber of Commerce as well
- We discussed issues relevant to sustaining and expanding business in Lyme, such as visibility of the town and its businesses, where businesses get customers and employees, how long they stay, and how much growth they experience
- All present agreed that developing an active group of Lyme business owners was a crucial step; to that end the committee will host a small group of business owners at an upcoming meeting to be held at Nils' house
- We also discussed the town website and its potential as a place to get out the message that Lyme is "open for business"
- Sue mentioned that we should identify which areas could be placed on a Town Meeting warrant as locations for zoning changes

Meeting ended at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dee Scanlan