

Village of Cambridge
Economic Development Committee
Monday, June 7, 2021
6:15 P.M.

APPROVED 7.6.2021

This meeting is being held via teleconference. You will be able to join the meeting any time after 6:05 p.m. Members and public may attend by:

Dial-in number (US): (727)731-3716

Online meeting ID: bgoeckner

Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/bgoeckner>

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** Chairperson Galler called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Members present: Chris Krueger, Christianne Laing, Dave Kratovil, Kevin Mehringer and Carla Galler. Others present: Lisa Moen, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer, Mark McNally; Kayla Sipple, Kathy Cunningham, Dean Lund, Stephanie Locchetta, A
2. **Proof of Posting:** The Agenda was posted in the upper and lower levels of the Amundson Community Center, Hometown Bank, Cambridge Post Office, and the Village Web Site.
3. **Public Appearances/Citizen Input:** Kathy Cunningham and Kayla Sipple on to listen. Mark McNally is glad that the meetings are starting again.
4. **Approval of Minutes from March 3, 2020:**

Laing made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Kratovil. Motion carried.
5. **New Business: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding:**
 - a. **Open Discussion regarding Economic Development Committee related goals and work:** Discussion included Chamber of Commerce duties vs. Economic Development Committee duties. Definition of what we are doing is needed. Building our tax base vs. assisting current businesses. Village ordinances: are we impeding growth, new businesses. Committee should be looking at our ordinances, practices and making recommendations back to the Village Board – similar to the Plan Commission. Moen will forward committee members the ordinance that created the committee, duties, etc. Look at all of the village, not just downtown. Smaller, achievable, short term goals as well as long term goals.
 - b. **Request for feedback on Business Survey to go out regarding concerns and mapping of the committee's goals moving forward:** Is a survey effective? How many will respond, and will it be an accurate picture? Do their concerns only affect them, or is it for the greater good,

global picture? We want to engage businesses but are we better off coming up with ideas ourselves first. Next meeting we should review the materials that have been shared – Vierbecher report, smart growth, ordinance and have a mapping session in person.

- c. Discussion on efforts of COVID and economic recovery funds from the State and Grants:** There are grants available to the state for small businesses. Most business owners have access to these grants either through communications with their banks or the state. General feeling that they should be searching/securing these grants on their own, it is not the Village's responsibility to inform them. Again, looking at the broader scope rather than individual businesses. The Village will be receiving some funds which can be used to help local businesses. We do not have a final total on these monies yet, and the Village Board has not decided on how to use them. We have had one small request from a small nonprofit for assistance. We should be looking to Grow as well as Support existing businesses.
 - d. Introduction of New Items of concern for Upcoming meetings:** Meeting in person next time, goals, and definition. Status of commercial properties, Highway 12 and 18, downtown vacant storefronts. Do we need to look at our ordinances to rezone, make changes to entice business to come to Cambridge? Galler had a study which looked at revitalizations of downtowns. The focus of the study was Cambridge, Mass. She will get the link to Moen to forward to committee members. A retreat was discussed that Linda Begley Korth facilitated several years back. There were a lot of good ideas. Discussion on properties being privately owned, we can lead them to water, but cannot make them drink. There needs to be initiatives on the business owners' part as well.
- 6. Setting of next meeting date:** First Tuesdays of the month. Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 6th, 6:15 in person at the Amundson Center.
 - 7. Questions, Referrals to Staff or Future Agenda Items:** Covered under previous items.
 - 8. Adjournment:** Kratovil made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Krueger. Motion carried. Galler adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.