

On October 11th 2022, on a motion by Maria Marasco, seconded by Joanne Crowley, the committee voted 4-0-1 (Joe Manning abstained) to approve these minutes.

Town of Yarmouth

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING OF
September 13, 2022**

The Yarmouth Community & Economic Development Committee held a regular Business Meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. The meeting was conducted in the Yarmouth Town Hall Room A and via Zoom teleconferencing.

Committee Members Present: Stephen O'Neil, Joanne Crowley, Joe Gibbs, Maria Marasco

Staff: Kyle Pedicini, Economic Development Coordinator

The meeting was opened by Stephen O'Neil at 4:30pm

YARMOUTH TOWN CLERK

22OCT12PM12:31 REC

1. Massachusetts Office of Business Development Discussion

Annmarie Kersten and Will Crocker from the Massachusetts Office of Business Development delivered a presentation on the economic incentive programs their organization has to offer. Ms. Kersten reviewed the local incentive programs available to communities such as the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Program and Special Tax Assessment (STA) Program. It was noted that these programs offer local tax exemptions in exchange for some sort of economic benefit provided by a particular business.

Ms. Kersten also reviewed the Massachusetts Vacant Storefront Program and its regulations. She stated that the program provides up to \$10,000 in refundable state tax credits, provided there is a 1:1 local match for the funds. It was noted that a community needs to first designate a vacant storefront district before projects would be eligible to receive the funds, and it was further noted that these districts would need to be in areas with high vacancies rates (near or above 10%). In order for a property to qualify as vacant under this program it would need to be vacant for at least 12 months. A list of communities with vacant storefronts were reviewed, and the committee questioned if any of these districts did not contain a downtown (like Yarmouth). Mr. Crocker responded that he would get back to the committee with this list. Committee members thanks Ms. Kersten and Mr. Crocker for their time and presentation, and it was agreed that members would work with the Chamber of Commerce to possibly identify an area that could form a district.

2. Sand Sculpture Trail Funding Request

Mary Vilbon, Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce, presented a request for \$40,000 in funding for the 2023 Sand Sculpture Trail. Ms. Vilbon detailed the reason for the increase in request from previous years as inflationary costs have necessitated the need for the increase. She also provided metrics to display the marketing value of the program. Committee member Maria Marasco questioned the marketing value of the program and expressed her opposition to the funding request. Other committee members stated that they felt the project provided marketing and branding value to the community and supported the request.

On October 11th 2022, on a motion by Maria Marasco, seconded by Joanne Crowley, the committee voted 4-0-1 (Joe Manning abstained) to approve these minutes.

Vote: On a motion from Joanne Crowley, seconded by Joe Gibbs the Committee voted to approve the allocation of \$40,000 for the 2023 Sand Sculpture Trail, with \$15,000 being allocated from marketing and \$25,000 from unallocated (Maria Marasco voted in opposition).

3. Review of Past Meeting Minutes

Vote: On a motion from Joe Gibbs, seconded by Ken Smith the Committee voted to approve the minutes of June 14, 2022, by a vote of 5-0-1 (Joanne Crowley abstained).

4. Future Meeting Dates/Schedules

The committee's next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 11th. The committee agreed to discuss the Tourism Grant program for special events and possibly repurposing the Beautification Team funding to hire an outside contractor to manage weeding around town.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:07pm