**EDC Members Present**: Donald Brown, Edward Morrell, Paul White, Jo Ann Wright, Lesia Mckenzie, Berry Perry, and Kyle Williams.

**EDC Members Absent**: None

**Staff Present**: David Bergmark, Patrick Reidy

**Guests**: Ginny Byrd Porter

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David Bergmark called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Bergmark said the committee was being asked to approved minutes from the October 23rd, December 18th, January 8th, February 26th, and March 12th EDC meetings.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the minutes from those meetings. Mr. Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bergmark said Jenny Porter from the Wendell Chamber of Commerce was here to talk with the committee about what the Chamber is doing and to see if any of our objectives might align and if not how we can help out.

Patrick Reidy stated the Economic Development Committee is supposed to have a Chamber member on it and Jenny has volunteered to serve, but the Town Board has to officially approve that.

Lesia Mckenzie made a motion to recommend Ginny Porter to serve as the Chamber representative on the Economic Development Committee. Mr. White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. White said when you say the Chamber and the EDC work together, one of the concepts we have going on is if we don’t have to have policemen it is better, the Police Department said they do not have the personnel to cover multiple events.

Jenny said the chamber is now debt free, our board has worked really hard to become debt free. We are running the chamber with volunteers and I do not see us paying us a salary in the near future. We want to have about $40,000 in savings before we commit to hire a Director.

Jenny said we had our Chamber Retreat in January with strategic planning and outlining our goals and mission for moving the Chamber forward. She said we are in the process of having each member to become a liaison to each business and work with them as to what we can do for Wendell.

Jenny said we are currently working with the board on having a kick-off for the Sidewalk Sale on Friday, May 2nd and what Paul was referring to was the police department has their Public Safety Day on Saturday, so the police do not feel like they have the resources to provide 2 Police Officers on Friday. She said it sounds like the Board of Commissioners were in support of it at the Monday night board meeting and they ask Teresa and Chief Carter to figure out how they can make this happen.

Jenny said Parks and Recreation will have a tournament on that Saturday. She said the Annual Golf Tournament will be on May 9th at Wendell Country Club.

Leisa said it would be nice if we could do the meet in the street thing on a regular basis, and have people come downtown and have music on the street. I think this would be a good idea.

Paul said we would like to see about getting permission to put tables on the sidewalk and serve wine or beer. David said the board recently passed an amendment that alcohol is allowed on town property with the approval from Town Board. David said each business would have to request that. Paul said that is our job, we need to get this type thing done, because they do not know what they have to do. I think this committee should request from the Town Board to allow any restaurant to put tables outside and not block the sidewalk and serve food at lunch and at night and also have wine and beer with their food.

Leisa said we had talked about a group that would go from business to business and focus on that business to make it more presentable. Suggest to them what can be done for a small amount of money or a large amount of money. I would really like to see our downtown group start to work on that.

Jenny said we have approval from the Board to have a Beer Garden at the Harvest Festival and we are happy about that and looking forward to having vendors to have taste testing and also our Annual Banquet in November. Lesia asked why is the banquet not at the Community Center that is where it used to be and was successful. Jenny said she has had some negative feedback about using the Community Center.

David said I thought we could talk about what we want to do moving forward and one item we had talked about was the shovel ready site and we could not get a lot of traction with the property owners because they didn’t want to list a potential price and they were concern about the initial cost of going through the certified site processed with the state. He said I talked with a Wake County contact and it can vary quite a bit, depending on the site, size and condition, but I got a ball park price $15,000 - $30,000. Donald Brown said that is the type of work I do and I would do it for cost.

David said I wanted to talk with this group about this and I think we need identify some achievable goals for this board to be doing.

Patrick said what can this group suggest to the Town Board as things that would bring people to town that normally would not and things we can be pro-active on as far as our use table, because if it is not in the use table it is not allowed. Barry said maybe the Town Board should re-visit the prohibited businesses, times have changed.

David said there is a free seminar on April 24th on solar farms and how to attract them if that would be something that you would like to look into.

Lesia Mckenzie made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15.