



TOWN OF HENNIKER
Economic Development Committee Meeting
Minutes

Wednesday August 24, 2016
Town Hall, 18 Depot Hill Rd., Henniker
4:00 – 5:30 PM

Present: Kris Blomback, John Weber, Scott Osgood, Terry Stamps, NEC representatives Mary Alger & Sue Murray, Staff: Mark Fougere

A. Create River festival (freight train rapids) to highlight the many benefits of the River:

Can coordinate and leverage many Departments at NEC that can tie into many program departments: Marketing, Outdoor Education, Sports Management and others.

Key Issues:

1. Is this idea worth pursuing; would it be an annual event?
2. When should it occur? Water level in River is an important consideration. Key current town events include:
 - a. NEC: classes end May 6th, graduation May 14th.
 - b. Memorial Day parade, May 30
 - c. Pats Peak Mountain Bike Fest. June 11/12
 - d. Chili Fest. Aug. 21
 - e. Music on Main Street Oct. 1
 - f. October Fest, Pats Peak Nov. 6
3. Event
 - a. Length? Fri. – Sunday, Sat. – Sunday?, one day?
 - b. Kayak & canoe races
 - c. Rafting rides
 - d. Logo contest, NEC?
 - e. Ugly boat contest with prizes
 - f. Leverage with kayak groups/organizations.

- g. Float parade/race
- h. Create music & river event.
- i. Install kayak gates on River for year round use.
- j. Coordinate with Pats Peak, Azalea Park group, American Canoe Assoc., American Whitewater, etc.
- k. Reach out to fishing organizations

4. Next Steps: ?

It was noted that NEC use to hold a “spring event”, which was ended years ago. Discussion occurred relative to the time of year; it was noted that spring could be challenging with the weather and the River is cold. Having the event in September may be better, the weather is better and the water warmer. It was noted that September is not a good time of year for kayak racing, Mark noted that we could split the event and have kayak races as a separate event.

Homecoming for NEC is the weekend of Music on Main Street; classes at NEC start Aug. 29th.

Mark stated that the next step would be to get support from the BOS for this event and that set up a planning committee. Mark will send a memo to the Board to obtain direction.

Create and maintain relationships.