

These are the minutes of the EDC meeting of 10/4/18, held in Room 9 of Acton Town Hall.
Present: Selby, Shirley Ming, Larry Kenah, Mike Majors, Dave Didriksen, Jon Benson, Derrick Chin, Josh Fischel, Peter Daniel
Absent: David Foley, Ann Chang

1. Minutes

We approved a raft of leftover minutes: March 1st, April 19th, September 6th, and September 20th.

2. Next Meeting

Larry Kenah, our beloved chair, will not be here two weeks from tonight. Your humble clerk will do his level best to briefly fill Larry's shoes (though we also might not meet).

3. Attracting New Businesses

Larry: Are there things we should be doing to attract new businesses? He brings up a question from a reasonably new Acton resident from last meeting: what about a shared/incubator space? There was a co-working space on Route 2A called Spark. There are some more specific spaces: using a commercial kitchen at Orange Door, another co-working space in the building where the *Robb Report* was. There's not a public space, visitor Terra Friedrichs points out. She proposes that the town open up public spaces to see who comes out to pitch an idea and see who wants to invest or network with you. Dave Didriksen suggests doing something like that through Community Ed. Peter Daniel points out that that should be in the Chamber of Commerce's wheelhouse, and observes that it might be a way for the EDC and the Chamber could collaborate. Peter will follow up.

4. Walker Property Update

The only people who have responded to the RFI are the Dog Park Committee and the Housing Authority. Selby says that traffic and neighbors are ultimately the barriers to development plans. He encourages us to share the RFI with developer friends.

5. EDC Goals and Projects

Based on feedback from the last meeting, Larry has come up with a few ideas of projects to pursue, including how to improve transportation for workers to and from the commuter rail station. Mike Majors points out you might want to meet with major employers first to find out what needs we can help fill. Larry will do the leg work here.

6. Updates from Members

Larry has one! He got a copy of the video for Acton Public Access on which Larry did a pitch about the EDC. He will share the YouTube video link when it is available.

Derrick attended a meeting of the Town Manager Search Committee, with John Mangiaratti and the Asian community. Twenty people showed, and there was a lot of talk about improving the parking situation around the commuter rail station. Jon Benson acknowledges that it is a

huge problem. A parking deck in the main lot is the current leading proposal before the Board. Derrick suggests that we make people aware of what is available in terms of parking options.

Jon Benson met someone at the Manufacturing Summit who works at Haartz, who said the town has treated them well.

Terra, a visitor to the meeting, literally leaps to her feet to point out that if the town bought the K-Mart lot and re-zoned it, the property could double in value.

Jon Benson again, on 40Bs: We may be close to achieving a "safe harbor" zone where we can turn down 40Bs.

7. Updates from Selby

AES was going to speak with the Selectmen about not meeting their employee targets. Their tax incentives from the state will likely go away as a result; the town will have to decide whether to keep our local incentives intact.

Tomorrow is Manufacturing Day! 30 students from Minuteman will visit AES and Haartz to learn about possible careers.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02.