

These are the minutes of the EDC meeting of 1/5/2017, held in Room 9 of Acton Town Hall.
Present: Chingsung Chang, David Foley, Dave Didriksen, Selby, Larry Kenah, Josh Fischel
Absent: Ann Chang, Derrick Chin
Called to Order: 7:34 pm

1. **Public Participation:** There was none.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** With minor corrections, the minutes from 11/30/16 were unanimously approved.
3. **Buy Local:** There was a casual tossing-around of ideas, including establishing an advisory committee to talk with local businesses. Dave Didriksen recommended picking a day during the week in response to David Foley's suggestion that we ought to choose a low, slow period when businesses could use a bump.
4. **EDC Mission, Goals, and Projects:** Selby offered a history lesson about the roots of and various iterations of Acton's Economic Development Committee. The origins of it first appear in 1997, when it was proposed as an advisory committee of 5-9 members serving 3-year terms. By 2000, the committee had grown to 10 full members and 3 associates. Three years later, Town Meeting voted to establish the Economic Development and Industrial Committee (EDIC), a 7-member board with backgrounds specified, which would have operated concurrently with the EDC; however, the EDIC fizzled due to discomfort with the real power that it might actually wield. Chingsung Chang said that our current charge ought to be to act as effectively a lobbying group for town businesses, to represent and promote their interests, which led him to point out that there ought to be actual business people on the committee. Dave observed that the Chamber of Commerce already serves this purpose, so the EDC should have a broader aim: look at the town's interests—and not just the businesses'—in economic development. The language of the mission, he said, "should reflect an interaction." The following back and forth among members of the committee centered around giving shape to the definition of our committee. Whose voices ought we to represent: the town, the business, and/or the consumer? We seemed to settle on the notion of reducing barriers to entry, fostering positive relationships between businesses and town governance, and finding viable solutions to economic problems, while stopping short of active solicitation of businesses. Finally, Larry Kenah and Selby elected to write up a charge incorporating elements of the mission statement we previously voted on and passed.
5. **Progress Report by Larry Kenah Regarding Business Database:** This endeavor took December off to allow for businesses to focus on their holiday sales.
6. **Updates from Selby:** There will be a meeting with Winstanley from Stop & Shop next week; the hope is that they will see a future with more than one restaurant in their new development on the current K-Mart lot. Meanwhile, the Insulet purchase and sale deal has been signed. Selby encouraged members of the EDC to attend the FinComm meeting on 1/24/17, at which there will be a presentation about Insulet.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Josh Fischel