



Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

5/2/19

7:30 pm

Room 9, Acton Town Hall, Acton, MA

Present: Members—Larry Kenah (Chair), Dave Didriksen, Mike Majors, Ann Chang, Derrick Chin, Peter Daniel, Josh Fischel (Clerk); Staff—Matthew Selby, EDD

Absent: Jon Benson, David Foley, Shirley Ming

Chair Larry Kenah opened the meeting at 7:33 pm.

I. Regular Business

1. Public Participation: No public in attendance at the time, and thus no comments.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – **The meeting minutes from the EDC's 3/7/19 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously by a vote of 8-0, with minor, mostly typographical amendments.**

II. New/Special Business

3. Leftover items from Town Meeting: Ann Chang suggests monitoring progress with Kelley's Corner and how the plastic bag ban fares with local businesses; Mike Majors suggests keeping up with the Asa Parlin House.

4. OML complaint revisited: Selby asked for guidance from Town Manager and Clerk and had not heard back; the complainant had forwarded a response he'd gotten from the Attorney General's office about his complaint, but there did not seem to be action required from us as a result at this time.

5. Future projects, etc.

a. Update from the Economic Development Director (EDD): He is on the board of Acton TV, and by dint of wearing a suit, he has begun interviewing local businesses, including with Westside Creamery and Pedal Power. To come: Kitchen Outfitters. He encourages EDC to attend relevant events.

b. Rail Trail Map: Ann reports that, anecdotally, businesses along the rail trail have had a few bikers come in as customers; the EDD has met with the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors' Bureau (GMVCVB), who wants to do a much larger map than the EDD was envisioning. David Didriksen will return to his contact in Maynard—Armand—to continue working on our own version. A member of the public asks about allowing businesses to advertise along the rail trail. Currently, businesses that are along the trail but don't have a back



door are not allowed to advertise on that side. Larry Kenah suggests that the sign by-law is perhaps too restrictive to accommodate the rail trail. Derrick Chin, the EDC's planning board liaison, will bring this up at the next planning board meeting, next week. Mike says the next logical extension is to think about how to regulate access or provide guidelines. David disagrees with "over-regulation." Larry suggests we start with the signs.

c. Business guide: There is an admin working with the EDD now who will assist with the business guide *and* the business database. The EDD will meet with the Chair about methodology and motivation.

d. Etc: Insulet's ribbon-cutting was today. The EDD's next idea is to have an Acton Restaurant Week. Peter Daniel calls it a "no-brainer." He and the EDD will collaborate on brainstorming. The committee is enthusiastic about this idea.

III. More Regular Business

6. Updates from members: Mike asks about getting a tour of the civil defense building to see what sort of adaptive reuse options there are.

Method Machines is inviting us for a walk-through on Wednesday, June 5th, at 2 pm.

The committee decides to move to one meeting per month, on the first Thursday, for now. Ann suggests that we leave the option open for two meetings a month as we get closer to Town Meeting.

7. Updates from the EDD: Mike asks about tangible results from the job fairs we've been holding.

IV. Consent Items

8. None

The meeting is adjourned at 8:34 pm.