



Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

10/3/19

5:30 pm

Room 9, Acton Town Hall, Acton, MA

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

Absent: David Foley, David Didriksen, Shirley Ming

Chair Larry Kenah opened the meeting at 5:38 pm.

I. Regular Business

1. Review of Meeting Minutes from 9/5/2019 – **The meeting minutes from the EDC’s 9/5/19 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously by a vote of 7-0, with minor, mostly typographical amendments.**
2. Public Participation—There is none.

II. New/Special Business

3. West Acton Sewers—Update; public forum on October 10th in West Acton, at the Gallery at Villageworks. There should be relevant numbers available there. There will be another one on November 14th. On the warrant, there will be an article providing the funds for the construction of the sewers. Short-term borrowing with a low interest rate will be the mechanism to get this started. Non-sewer related items (re-done sidewalks, re-paving some streets) will be applied to the tax rate, but none of the actual sewer expenses will be raised through increased taxation. There will be a ballot on December 17th—a simple majority will be required there; two-thirds majority will be required at Town Meeting. Ann Chang advocates for the EDC to publicly support West Acton sewers. Mike Majors suggests we should wait one more meeting, until we have all the facts and numbers. Selby says it is more or less a \$14 million project; the rate-payers shoulder much of that burden, and the rest will come from the general fund. Speaking of Town Meeting, the other two articles on that warrant will be the schools, the fire station, and possibly the bonding of the Minuteman debt. A fifth article might be the change of the name of the Board of Selectmen to the Select Board.
4. Restaurant Week: Lessons Learned—People were enthused and came out. Selby said he heard customers wishing each other a happy Restaurant Week. Some restaurants got lots more business; some didn’t see much of an uptick. In the future, getting restaurants to give us more information a few weeks before the week actually begins would be helpful. There’s wide interest in doing this again next year. It did run up against the Chamber’s Taste of Middlesex, so Selby



wants to make sure dates next year don't coincide. We could do it again in March. Good feelings all around.

5. Insulet Tour—Jon Benson organized—even brought along some water commissioners and FinComm members; there is discussion of their interest in putting solar panels on the top of their parking garage (though that would violate existing zoning laws). Derrick asked what was the biggest barrier to hiring; affordable housing was the emphatic answer.

III. More Regular Business

6. Updates from Members—Mike Majors recommends coming to a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Minuteman tomorrow; there will be an open house in November.

7. Updates from EDD—Tomorrow is Manufacturing Day! There's a large number of Minuteman High students coming to tour Haartz, AES, and Insulet, where there will be pizza.

8. Next meeting: date and time—Thursday, November 7th at 5:30.

IV. Consent Items

9. None

Additional materials:

- Draft meeting minutes from 5 September 2019

Meeting adjourned at 6:55.