

EDC Minutes 06/16/11 --- from Ann Chang

Minutes Approved 7-21-11

Acton Town Hall --- Room 204

NOTE --- Due to the resignation of Chairman Doug Tindal, this EDC meeting is an "informational" meeting only --- co-hosted by Board of Selectmen Liaison David Clough and Associate Member Dick Calandrella

Present: Dick Calandrella, Derrick Chin, David Didriksen, Chris Pappas, David Clough, Harry Mink (awaiting VCC approval), Nancy Dinkle. Absent: Jeoff Hall (awaiting VCC approval)

There was discussion prior to the start of the meeting as to the exact start time. Those there at or near 7:00 p.m. thought it was 7:00 p.m. Those that came later thought it was 7:30 p.m. Since there was a quorum, the meeting started @ 7:15 p.m.

Minutes—it appears that the minutes from the EDC meetings have not been accepted since October 2010

ACTION---all those who have taken minutes will send their copy to Dick so the committee can pass all those that have been neglected

A motion was made and passed to have the EDC meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

III Committee reports

Dick reported on his attempts to develop a comprehensive list of Acton business people. This is still a work in progress & he hopes he'll have a more complete list when the Acton 20/20 process is completed.

Leigh Davis-Honn was in charge of marketing---since she is no longer a member, it is not clear who will take over this task. Dick will ask Leigh to consider rejoining the committee. It is not clear exactly where the marketing survey, compiled by Leigh, is at this point.

New business---David D. is concerned that the schemes to attract new business will not work when we do not know what businesses are in town & how they are faring. He noted that many of the plans for attracting new shoppers at local businesses cost the merchant more money than the effort is worth. David C. suggested that we investigate the program—Berk Shares that has been successful in the Berkshire area of the state. There was concern that this sort of plan needed a larger catchment than the town--- Nancy suggested that the Chamber be involved.

ACTION: look up Berkshares.org before the next meeting

IV&V Sign bylaw

Discussion centered around the "progress" of the HDC---we do not know exactly what that is---frustration at the lack of progress in general and the need for a rewrite/or partial rewrite

Actions: Nancy will resend the info she accumulated on the actions of the sign bylaw subcommittee; Ann will contact Roland re window signs; Dick will contact the HDC; David C. will ask Steve Ledoux if Kristin can be the "face of the sign by law enforcement" rather than Scott.

The EDC sign bylaw subcommittee will meet again and highlight those areas that need to be changed and continue on the project of putting the requirements into comprehensible English. We will need to work with the planning board to have any effect.

VI& VII reorganization

Dick said that he would not consider serving as EDC Chair.

As of June 30<sup>th</sup> we will have 10 ? openings ( unless the selectmen reappoint some members whose terms are expiring on that date) David C. will make sure that happens.

There was a general discussion on the difference between at-large members & just regular members. It was decided that there is no difference so we will eliminate the "at-large" designation. We are supposed to have two members representing the Chamber (Nancy & Chris); planning board (Derrick) & selectman liaison (D. Clough---he is not supposed to vote). We also have 2 associates who can

be part of a quorum & vote when needed. When there is a quorum of regular members, the associates cannot vote. There was the feeling that we should make the present associates full members.

The sense of the committee was: 2 Chamber; 1 Planning Board; 1 BoS; 4 regular and 2 associates with a quorum of 4. D. Clough will present this to the BoS.

It was also noted that we need a chair; vice chair & clerk. The clerk position would be that of the minute taker. There was some dissent, thinking that the minutes should not be the sole responsibility of one member but rather spread the job among members. Perhaps make a list of minute takers along with the agenda list.

Harry volunteered to be clerk. ▼

Deleted:

There was a vote to make Dick a full member.

VIII goals

Complete the sign bylaw changes.

Mike Gowing, chair of the BoS, will have a committee chairs' meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting he wants to discuss the goals of each committee. We need to prepare for that event

David D. wants changes in the Mission statement [Action: Dick will send members a copy of present Mission Statement.

The overall goal is the make the community more business friendly

Adjourned 9:05

Next meeting July 7<sup>th</sup>---the agenda item will be a discussion of goals

Ann Chang