

# EDC Minutes – 15 November 2012

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These are the meeting minutes from the Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts. The meeting took place on 15 November 2012 at the Acton Town Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Nancy Dinkel.

Present: Allan Gulliver, Dave Clough, David Didriksen, Derrick Chin, Dick Calandrella, Jeoff Hall, Larry Kenah, Nancy Dinkel

Missing: Ann Chang, Chris Pappas, Doug Tindal

## Preliminaries

- There were no members of the public in attendance.
- The minutes from the 1 November 2012 meeting were approved.

## Tea Distribution Postscript

The meeting began with a brief update on the status of Hartley S Johnson & Son, referred to as the “tea company”. Derrick Chin and Dick Calandrella visited the tea company and wrote a report that confirmed the committee’s earlier position that it should be classified as a light manufacturing operation.

After the EDC meeting, Roland Bartl also visited the tea company and, after consultation with Town Counsel, changed the classification to “manufacturing use for purposes of Acton zoning”. He informed Mr Johnson of this decision and copied the EDC on 20 November.

## Kelley’s Corner and Acton 2020

In several recent meeting conversations about Kelley’s Corner, the committee recognized an overlap with Acton 2020 and thought that regular joint meetings might be useful. In addition to Kelley’s Corner, we learned that Acton 2020 is also working on helping businesses to deal with sign bylaws.

Nancy Dinkel agreed to contact Margaret Woolley Busse to select a future Acton 2020 meeting that EDC members would attend.

- **Motion:** The EDC will plan to attend one of the next two meetings of the Acton 2020 Committee.
  - The motion passed unanimously.

Following the meeting, an alternate plan was selected. Members of the Acton 2020 Committee will attend the EDC meeting on 6 December 2012.

## Dave Clough Report

Dave provided an update about CVS plans.

- Rich Maddox (developer) and Vinnie Catone (property owner) will attend the 20 November Planning Board meeting.
- In a previous meeting with the Design Review Board, two proposals were rejected.
  - Building set back with parking in front of the building
  - Loading dock at the front of the building

## Conversations

### Ballot Questions

Dave Clough reported that he and his colleagues are already receiving inquiries about “impact of ballot questions on business in Acton”.

### Updates from State

Dave also mentioned two state concerns as they affect business.

- Health care transparency
  - How much do procedures cost?
- Revenue package

Lobbyists for retail businesses have their own list of priorities.

- Amazon taxes
- Tax holiday
- Item pricing (or eliminating the requirement, finally realized)

### “Buy Local”

What can the EDC do to promote the “buy local” effort?

- The EDC (Nancy Dinkel in her role as chair) will write a letter to The Beacon.
- Dave Didriksen will contact the manager at The Beacon and Robert Fucci at Acton Patch.

### Other

The Chamber of Commerce is becoming less Acton centric.

## Other Committee Business

### Electronic Business Directory (EBD)

Jeoff Hall has reached out to Mark Hald (Director of Information Technology for the Town of Acton) on what steps remain for the EBD in its current state to be posted on the town Web site. The EBD will be decoupled from the permitting app to eliminate one possible delay in the posting. Jeoff has given up on obtaining Nielsen data to augment information in the EBD.

## **In Closing**

The meeting adjourned at 9:20.

The final EDC meeting for 2012 will take place on 6 December. There will be no meeting on 20 December.

The regular meeting schedule, first and third Thursday, will resume in January 2013.