

EDC Minutes – 21 November 2013

These are the meeting minutes from the Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts. The meeting took place on 21 November 2013 at the Acton Town Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm by Nancy Dinkel.

Present: Chris Pappas, Derrick Chin, Dick Calandrella, Larry Kenah, Nancy Dinkel

Not Present: Allan Gulliver, Ann Chang, Dave Clough, Doug Tindal

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There was no public participation.

Minutes from the 7 November 2013 meeting were approved with three changes.

Agenda Items

Robbins Brook v Firewood Manufacturing (3)

The committee was surprised that this issue had resurfaced. We thought that the concerns had been dealt with. Derrick Chin will check with the Planning Department to determine the zoning designation (residential or otherwise) for the Robbins Brook properties.

457 Great Road Update (5)

There was no update on the status of this particular property but Chris Pappas described the area in West Concord where the spa was previously located. He indicated that the displaced businesses are aware of areas of vacancies in Acton. This discussion led into a conversation about the evolving state of businesses in West Acton.

Knox Trail Update (4)

At Dave Clough's request, we discussed the economic impact and other aspects of Concord's request to park its school buses on one of the properties on Knox Trail in South Acton.

Summary

We concluded that this will have only a small impact one way or the other.

Questions

There were a couple of questions that we could not answer that might have an effect on the topics that we talked about.

- Are the buses privately owned or are they owned by the Town of Concord?
 - Derrick Chin seemed to remember from an earlier conversation that they are owned by Concord itself rather than by a private company.
- How many buses are we talking about?

- We assumed that 50 buses is an upper limit.
- Where exactly along Knox Trail will the buses be parked?
 - Chris Pappas is very familiar with Knox Trail and he tried to describe where they might be parked.

Areas of Interest

- Are there any excise taxes involved?
 - If yes, will Acton receive a share?
- Knox Trail just got paved.
 - Buses will add to the daily traffic but this is a small effect and the buses are empty when they enter and leave the parking area.
- We concluded that bus traffic in and out will add only a small additional load to traffic on Route 62. The morning departures will require left turns into Route 62 traffic.
- Is there any impact on the nearby water wells? This part of the conversation brought a couple of additional details to the surface.
 - Are the buses refueling on Knox Trail or elsewhere?
 - There is already a trucking company located on Knox Trail so school buses do not introduce a qualitative change to the area (unless refueling takes place at Knox Trail).

Kelley's Corner Selection Committee (6)

Larry Kenah reported that the committee had completed its business and had communicated the results of its evaluation to the Town Manager who will make the final decision.

Remaining Agenda Items

There were no updates on agenda items #7 through #12.

In Closing

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

These minutes were recorded by Lawrence J Kenah, EDC Clerk.