

EDC Minutes – 16 January 2014

These are the meeting minutes from the Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts. The meeting took place on 16 January 2014 at the Acton Town Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Nancy Dinkel.

Present: Allan Gulliver, Ann Chang, Chris Pappas, Dave Clough, Derrick Chin, Dick Calandrella, Doug Tindal, Larry Kenah, Nancy Dinkel

Not Present: None

There was no public participation.

Minutes from the 5 December 2013 meeting were approved.

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Agenda Items

Robbins Brook v Firewood Manufacturing (3)

There were no updates. This matter had been continued (and continued) with the Board of Selectmen.

Knox Trail Update (4)

Dave Clough indicated that the town is trying to stop the effort of the Town of Concord to park, fuel, and service school buses and other town vehicles on a property that they plan to purchase on Knox Trail. The primary reason is the threat to town water sources.

457 Great Road Update (5)

While the issues associated with the building are sorted out, the spa has moved to a temporary location on Baker Avenue in Concord. This item has brought two challenges to the surface.

- Problems associated with this particular business are sometimes mixed in with general problems associated with starting or moving a business to Acton. In this particular case, the town has put in the extra effort to make this relocation successful. The stories that are circulating as a result of this business's initial problems affect other prospective businesses as well. The EDC and the town need to address the two issues separately.
- Mixed-use zoning (457 Great Road and elsewhere) creates problems down the road. The town should proceed carefully before using this in the future.

Planning Department Staffing

In previous meetings, we have discussed a request from the Planning Department to add a staff member. One outcome of so-called Budget Saturday was that the Planning Department budget is flat. The staff member will not be added.

In the context of the Planning Department, Doug Tindal suggested that the groups associated with planning have several joint meetings that focus on long range plans for the town. These meetings would include the Planning Department, Planning Board, Design Review Board, Economic Development Committee, and Action2020 (owner of the Master Plan).

Kelley's Corner Update

Andy Brockway, chair of Acton 2020, wants to create a steering committee associated with the Kelley's Corner Improvement Initiative. He asked several committees including EDC to recommend a member for this committee. Larry Kenah (your humble scribe) volunteered and the committee recommended him.

Other Agenda Items

- The Board of Selectmen approved an addition to the Honeywell building on Discovery Way.
- CVS is suing Board of Selectmen over the number of parking spaces in the proposed new location.
- Nancy Dinkel will circulate to committee members an e-mail from Dave Clough about "Buy Local" efforts in New Hampshire.

Miscellany

- There was a brief discussion about businesses located in West Concord moving to Acton.
- Derrick Chin mentioned plans from one of the wireless companies to build a 4G tower on Craig Road.

Remaining Agenda Items

There were no updates on agenda items #10 through #13.

In Closing

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

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