

Minutes of the Economic Development Committee

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Room 9, Acton Town Hall

Present: Chingsung Chang, Derrick Chin, Selby, Mike Majors, Josh Fischel,, Larry Kenah, Shirley Ming, Dave Didriksen

Absent: Peter Daniel, David Foley, Ann Chang

Meeting called to order at 7:31

Public Participation

There is no one from the public.

Approval of Minutes

We discussed a variety of international breakfast foods and their many drawbacks, but then wound up approving the minutes for both 10/5 and 11/2.

Future Meetings

Jessica Strunkin from the 495 Metrowest Partnership will be in attendance for our meeting on December 7th.

We will not meet on December 21st.

Special Town Meeting

We spent some time word-smithing what Larry will say with respect to the EDC's position about Brookside Shops at Town Meeting. Larry will re-write his words.

Updates from Members

Welcome to Shirley!

There are some chess pieces to be moved around to get every committee member properly into full or associate membership.

At the Massachusetts Retail Association meeting, Dave Didriksen said that retail is in trouble because of SEIU-backed ballot initiatives: \$15/hour minimum wage, 6 months' paid family leave—but only 17% of minimum wage employees in whole country work full-time. Dave speaks in terms of a coming armageddon. Lexington and Concord and 2A are becoming ghost towns. Sundays are time and a half—though Amazon's super-center in Fall River is exempt from that. Retail is 1/6th of all the jobs in Massachusetts now. Amazon could bring in 50 thousand jobs, but it could cost 50 thousand other jobs in retail. Doom and gloom, with some statistics.

Updates from Selby

The Walker Committee is meeting on 12/5; Selby is about 75% done with a grant application for a feasibility study and market analysis: \$15,000.

Fun Fact of the Night: Selby is a key regional leader now. (Selby would like this struck, but we're proud of him, SO IT STAYS IN.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:29. Happy Thanksgiving!