



Town of Hopkinton, NH

Office of the Select Board

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2018

The meeting of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) meeting was called to order by Acting Chair LeeAnne Vance at 6:02 p.m. on Thursday, August 16, 2018, in the large meeting room in the Town Hall.

Members Present: Byron Carr, Tom Congoran (arriving at 7:00), Lester Cressy, Jim Fredyma, Erik Newman, LeeAnne Vance, Steven Whitley

Members Absent: Steve Lux, Jr., Anna Wells

Staff Present: Neal Cass (Town Administrator)

Others Present: Stewart Arnett, Roger Turcotte

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of their previous meeting. Ms. Vance made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fredyma, to approve the Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2018. Ms. Vance called for the vote.

VOTE: Carr, Cressy, Fredyma, and Vance voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; Newman and Whitley abstained; MOTION APPROVED 5-0-2.

Roger Turcotte - Town Branding

Mr. Turcotte introduced himself and described his experience in town. He outlined the following suggestion:

- What is truly important is how people perceive the town. If want to attract businesses, need to be defined and perceived as a place that welcomes businesses.
- Suggested connecting with local business brokers to find out what they think of Hopkinton.
- Document the experiences of those who have decided to have their business here.
- Use testimonials of those experiences to market the process
- Use a focus group of those in the community so that development is marketed to the community as well as to businesses. Look at customers and primary stakeholders (people within a certain radius)
- Get something done and then celebrate the success
- Provide as much information as possible
- Town has been supportive of solution-based actions. Looking for solution to the current tax burden

- Tap into the creative arts community

Mr. Fredyma noted that we need to be “zoning ready” for anything we want to do.

Mr. Turcotte said he is willing to help in any way possible.

Stewart Arnett – MTAG Grant

Mr. Arnett reviewed the MTAG grant administered by PLAN NH that was submitted earlier this year. The grant was denied because they said there was not enough support from the Town, the plan was too focused on commerce, and the plan took housing development out of the two villages.

The group discussed how to proceed. The possibility of phasing this work in was also discussed.

Mr. Congoran moved for the EDC to encourage the Select Board to meet with PLAN NH to promote obtaining this grant.

VOTE: Carr, Congoran, Cressy, Fredyma, Newman, Vance, and Whitley voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; **MOTION APPROVED 7-0.**

Mr. Whitley will take this back to the Select Board.

Committee Chair

Ms. Vance announced that due to time constraints she would be leaving the committee. She will remain the liaison between the EDC and the Contoocook Chamber of Commerce.

After discussion, it was determined that Mr. Whitley will serve as the Interim Chair and there will be further discussion when the entire committee is present.

There is a need for more member and Mr. Cass will post this on the town website and Facebook page.

Hart’s Corner TIF District Area

The title work on these properties is nearing completion. There has been no meeting with Mrs. Hart yet.

Exit 6 TIF District Area

No update at this time.

Contoocook Village Area

Mr. Cass reported that there was a recent meeting with Director of Public Works Dan Blanchette looking at crosswalks and sidewalks. There currently is a plan to upgrade the sidewalk on Maple Street.

Burnham Intervale Area

Mr. Fredyma reported that he and Mr. Cressy has met with residents in the area and are gathering information.

Town Meeting 2019

There was discussion about current zoning and how to move forward. Of concern is the current limit on the number of housing units that can be built and the requirement to phase these units in. Mr. Cass will discuss this further with Planning Director Karen Robertson and there will be more discussion by the EDC at the next meeting.

EDC Staffing

Mr. Cass asked for input on the possibility of adjusting staffing to have a person responsible for community development. Mr. Gerseny has put a substantial amount of time into the EDC work and we don't want to lose the momentum. The EDC was supportive of the idea feeling that having a liaison to businesses would be beneficial and sends a good message to potential developers.

Water and Sewer Extension

Mr. Cass is following up with work that is being done concerning water and sewer extension on Maple Street.

Gathering "Perception" Information

Mr. Whitley moved for the EDC to seek input from commercial realtors, businesses that have left town, and current businesses to obtain their experience and perception of the Town of Hopkinton. Ms. Vance seconded the motion.

VOTE: Carr, Congoran, Cressy, Fredyma, Newman, Vance, and Whitley voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

Mr. Cass will do follow-up on this.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 20, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – Hopkinton Town Hall

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Neal Cass, Town Administrator