



Town of Hopkinton

Office of Select Board

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019

The meeting of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) was called to order by Steven Whitley on Thursday, November 22, 2019, at 6:03 p.m. in the Philip S. Dunlap Room at the Town Hall.

Members Present: Tom Congoran, Jim Fredyma, Erik Newman, Anna Wells, Steven Whitley

Members Absent: Byron Carr, Andrea Folsom, Steve Lux, Jr.

Staff Present: Neal Cass-Town Administrator

Others Present: Brian Cressy and Beth Dermody

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the October 17, 2019 meeting. Mr. Newman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wells, to approve the Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2019. Mr. Whitley called for the vote.

VOTE: Congoran, Fredyma, Newman, Wells, and Whitley voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

Budget Update

The committee reviewed the updated budget which retains the Economic Development Coordinator but lowers some of the other items.

MTAG Update

Mr. Cass updated the committee on his discussion with Robin LeBlanc from PlanNH. They would like to see much more public involvement and facilitated discussion concerning the proposed zoning changes. Work is being done by our consultant and Planning Director Karen Robertson to create the proposed zoning amendments.

Land Swap Update

The proposed land swap with the State of New Hampshire has been approved by the Joint Legislative Committee and now all that remains is the approval of the Governor and Council. This approval may happen in December, but most likely sometime in January.

Public Forum

Ms. Dermody thanked the committee for the work it is doing. Mr. Cressy said he is concerned about the high taxes in town.

Economic Development Director

The committee reviewed that Durham, NH Economic Development Director job description. The Town Administrator will do an updated version of the document and send it out to the committee along with the original.

The committee has the following thoughts on the position:

- The towns people need to be able to see added value from this position.
- Should work to obtain grants
- Is there another town that we could share the position with?
- Needs to work to make it easier for development
- First task should be an Economic Development Plan
- Should it be an employee or a consultant
 - Impression is that an employee is huge cost where a consultant is less of a commitment
 - Consensus was that the consultant seems to be the best way to proceed at this time, but the options should be left open.

There was some discussion as to the zoning barriers to development and the possible need for a zoning audit.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 19, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Town Hall

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Neal Cass, Town Administrator