



Town of Hopkinton

Office of Select Board

330 Main Street, Hopkinton NH 03229-2627 - (603) 746-3170 – www.hopkinton-nh.gov

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.

The meeting of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) was called to order by Steven Whitley on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 6:32 p.m. via Zoom.

Members Present: Jim Fredyma, Erik Newman, Greg Sagris, Anna Wells, and Steven Whitley

Members Absent: Tom Congoran, Andrea Folsom

Staff Present: Neal Cass-Town Administrator

DECLARATION OF CHAIR: Chair Whitley read the Right to Know Law Meeting Checklist as follows: As Chair of the Hopkinton Economic Development Committee, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Committee is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means.

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 1-646-558-8656 and meeting ID: 845 4293 1647, or by clicking on the following website address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84542931647>

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting.

We previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting using Zoom, and instructions are provided on Town of Hopkinton's website: www.hopkinton-nh.gov and on the Town of Hopkinton's Facebook page.

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access.

If anyone has a problem, call (603) 746-8242 or email: townadmin@hopkinton-nh.gov.

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Let us start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Jim Fredyma, alone
Erik Newman, alone
Greg Sagris, alone
Anna Wells, alone
Steven Whitley, alone

This meeting was the first time the Committee has met since February. Mr. Whitley welcomed Mr. Sagris to the committee.

Approval of Minutes

The February 20 meeting minutes were not sent out with the agenda so they will be approved at the next meeting.

Town Meeting Update

The updates to the Hart's Corner TIF were approved by a large margin.

Land Swap Update

Attorney Tim Britain for the Town and Tracie Boisvert for the State of New Hampshire are working to finalize the deeds and set up the closing.

Review of the Intersection Meeting

The committee reviewed the discussion at the previous meeting concerning the Maple St./ Routes 202/9 intersection. This is a high priority for both Hopkinton and Henniker.

Economic Development Director

The funds for this position were approved at Town Meeting in July. After discussion, it was decided to have a discussion with the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) about the possibility of contracting with them for this service. There was also discussion of expanding the partnership with the Chamber of Commerce especially regarding this position. Mr. Cass will contact CNHRPC and arrange a meeting.

Exit 6 TIF District Board Membership

The Committee discussed the names they have considered so far. It was decided to send a letter over Mr Whitley's signature to all the property owners in the District letting them know that members are needed. They will also be reminded of the ERZ District. It was noted that the EDC need to have someone represent it on the TIF District Board.

NHDOT 10-Year Road Plan

The Committee reviewed the letter from CNHRPC concerning the Exit 4 reconfiguration being in the State's 10-year road plan. This project was submitted two years ago. After discussion, the Committee favored pushing off the Exit 4 work in favor of the following projects if they qualify for the 10-year plan:

1. The intersection by the fire station in Contoocook Village
2. The Fountain Square area
3. The intersection in from of the Cracker Barrel.

Mr. Newman offered to help if a letter needs to be written.

Master Plan Work Update

There was discussion of where the work of the EDC overlaps with the work of the Planning Board.

Mr. Sagris and Ms. Wells updated the Committee on their work on a Planning Board subcommittee looking at the zoning ordinance. This group has taken a “deep dive” into the Table of Uses and looked at what truly makes sense. Their work has included, how to make Exit 6 and Hart’s Corner attractive to businesses and how to keep the character of the two villages. The group is currently making sure everything in the ordinance is clearly defined. The plan is to present amendments for town vote in March 2021.

EDC Work Moving Forward

Mr. Whitley noted a couple of items:

- There is a need for more members. Several names were discussed as possibilities.
- The Committee should elect a Chair each year. This will be done at the next meeting.
- EDC has been asked to present to Hopkinton Rotary on Wednesday, October 7. Mr. Whitley will present and all members who are able will attend and assist.

Potential uses of the Bates Building will be on the agenda of the next EDC meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Neal Cass, Town Administrator