



Economic Development Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Charlie opened the meeting at (no time stated)

Committee members in attendance:

Charlie Albano – Chair

Joe Mendola – Business Owner

Michael Amaral – Conservation Commission

Will Minsinger – Resident

Christine Frost – Resident

Matt Moran - Resident

Peter Anderson – Planning Board Member

Neil Nevins – Business Owner

Adam Bates – Resident

Clyde Carson - Selectman

Absent: Ginger Marsh – Sugar River Bank/Business Rep.

1. Charlie talked about the need to take what the Committee has talked about and put into action, make a move on deliverables and dates for the survey, website and the tourism brochure. Charlie wants to identify dates so it can be shared with the Selectboard as well as items the Selectboard can anticipate.
2. Charlie talked about House Bill 316 (HB316), statewide property tax exemption for commercial and industrial new construction, information was passed out to the members. Charlie said he has read the information and doesn't see any negatives to it.

Clyde explained the bill was passed and signed in July and was effective at the end of the summer. The bill is now something the town's can adopt at Town Meeting. The goal is to give towns an extra incentive to attract new businesses or business construction. It allows town's to offer an exemption. The down side is the exemption can pit towns against each other.

Clyde said the way it could operate is if a business wants to add on an addition the business could apply for a 50% tax exemption for 10 years. The exemption is applied to the town and school tax. The State doesn't offer any business exemptions so the State has pushed it down to the town level. The question now is what does the town do with this legislation. Clyde said he has informed the Selectboard about the legislation and he suggested that he bring the information to this Committee to review and make a recommendation as to whether this legislation should be presented at Town Meeting along with conditions. The Planning Board may need to be involved as well. Clyde recommends a conversation between EDAC about where would you like to have this as a tool to use and for what sort of applications. Then if there's a need, meet with the Planning Board.

Clyde, Neil and Peter will bring to the next meeting a rough draft on their thoughts about the legislation.

3. Charlie said Ginger Marsh is on a personal leave from the Committee and Darryl Parker has resigned. Charlie is going to contact Rebecca Courser to join the Committee; the Committee was greatly in favor. Neil will take Darryl's place on business retention sub-committee.
4. Survey: Christine and Michael are on this sub-committee. Christine said what they are trying to do is educate people and to make sure we are not setting up expectations that can't be met. The Master Plan was reviewed and past survey's as well. The survey will have 10 questions trying to touch on all the points that were heard over the last year that will help the Committee to move forward. The members provided input to the created survey. Christine and Michael will take the input from the Committee and revamp the survey.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned (no time stated)

Recorder of the minutes: Mary Whalen