

EDC Meeting - July 19, 2018

Present: Larry Kehan, Mike Majors, David Foley, Jon Benson, Derrick Chin, David Didriksen

Meeting opened at 7:32pm.

1. Public participation. Danny Factor attended to discuss Kelley's Corner infrastructure as he saw this item on the agenda. Terra Friedrichs showed up around 8pm.
2. Minutes - tabled to next meeting.
3. Next meetings scheduled 8/2 and 8/16. LK and MM will be absent. DF will be absent the 16th. EDC will not meet on 8/2 but will meet on 8/16 subject to quorum.
4. EDSAT discussion. Employer Survey: DF -- EDC would like to see the raw data. The way the data is presented in this document does not lend itself to analysis. For example, on page 3 of the employer survey document, the bulleted items all seem mutually exclusive. It's important to understand which market segments are in what way (foot traffic and 20' ceilings are not needs from the same market). Could the EDC have a copy of the survey questions? How many jobs do we have in Acton and what percentage of them are low-wage? DD -- this is a waste of time; bureaucratic psychobabble.
Predetermined conclusions. We should see the actual survey results. Only 108 respondents from (an estimated) 500 businesses is not a representative sample. Very disturbed that we have no real data. Would like to see the methodology of how the questions were compiled and how the summary conclusions were reached. How many jobs are in Acton relative to the number of people in Acton? Housing survey: EDC has a very bad impression of this survey -- drafted with foregone conclusions. EDSAT -- EDC does not have answers for the highlighted questions and does not believe it is a worthwhile effort to find the answers. Reiteration -- would like access to the survey data. TF -- the surveys were biased and the results should not be put out as a Town document. Housing survey was so biased we put out our own biased survey.
5. Business climate in Acton. Discussion revolved around Rapscallion and parking issues. DD -- most of the business in Town feel that Acton (Town Hall) is anti-business. The problem is that zoning enforcement is too rigid. LK -- if you could wave a magic wand to change one thing (other than staff) to improve the business climate? MM -- business guide. DF -- request a business and growth plan for businesses that come into town. DC -- put together a group from BoS, EDC, plus Selby to work through issues with Peter Daniel.