

These are the minutes of the EDC meeting of 6/21/18, held in Room 9 of Acton Town Hall.
Present: Mike Majors, Josh Fischel, Larry Kenah, Derrick Chin, Ann Chang, Dave Didriksen
Absent: David Foley, Selby, Jon Benson, Peter Daniel

Meeting convened 7:37 pm.

I. Public participation

No public participation

II. Approval of the minutes

Minutes were passed unanimously.

III. Should we cancel the July 5th meeting?

There will be no meeting of the EDC on July 5th.

IV. Report from the meetings with business leaders on June 4th.

Five businesspeople showed up for the morning meeting with businesses; no business people showed up (on time, at least) for the afternoon meeting. Derrick Chin found it very enjoyable. Judy Barrett ran the morning meeting effectively. Derrick said the “longest talker” was Dean Croke, a caterer with an Australian accent.

Dave Didriksen voiced concern that attendees were few enough that their feedback was perhaps not representative of the whole Acton business community. No one is sure if there will be a report about the meeting, submitted to whom by whom. Ann Chang asks if the EDC will have a chance to review this report before it’s officially submitted?

Derrick did mention that people said their interactions with Town Hall folks were pleasant and professional to deal with.

Dave surprises by being more optimistic about the future of retail; he just says that the nature of retail is changing. He is, therefore, suspicious that the real agenda from the town is that we’ll need to expand housing in order to improve the business climate.

Terra reports that Judy Barrett was hired as a PR consultant to get the re-zoning done at Kelley’s Corner. Roland hired her without consulting anyone else, she says. [NOTE: Upon review, Judy Barrett was, in fact, hired through an RFP process, and the contract was signed by the Town Manager.] Derrick returns to the purpose of the grant—it’s meant, he says, to explore any possible link between housing and economic development. Terra said the RFP is paid for by two housing organizations, and that the RFP seeks to *find* a link.

Larry reports that, after spring Town Meeting, the Kelley’s Corner Steering Committee decided not to pursue re-zoning efforts for the fall Town Meeting, and Adam Winstanley also rescinded his plan (for now, at least).

Terra asks Larry if the KCSC was involved in hiring Judy Barrett. Larry says no.

Larry said he’ll talk with Selby with regard to answers to our most indignant questions. Dave wants Roland and Judy to come to one of our meetings to describe the results and findings.

FUN FACT: Ann used an environmental impact review as a booster seat for her daughter because it was very, very thick.

V. EDC initiative on the new rail trail

This is stalled for another meeting, because Dave and Larry need to meet with the Maynard EDC in order to move forward.

VI. Kelley's Corner Update

Larry says: The Board of Selectmen moved on May 7th to decide what to do, and they decided to continue with the 25% plan. Next, there was a public forum—the 25% plan public hearing will now likely be held in the fall. There also no further KCSC meetings scheduled.

VII. Updates from members

Mike Majors had a question. On Mondays, Rapscallion's restaurant is closed but the bar is open, so they had a food truck there. He found it enjoyable when we went there with his family. Later, however, Mike discovered that the victualers' license may not allow him to continue to have food trucks there in the future.

Terra—a member?—says that the formal appraisal of the K-Mart lot will only cost \$7,000. Terra asked for an appraisal of what the lot would be worth after the proposed re-zoning.

VIII. Update from Selby

Selby is absent.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned to dispense parenting advice to the clerk at 8:45 pm.

The next EDC meeting will be Thursday, July 19, 2018.