



Economic Development Committee Minutes

23 June 2023

12:00 PM

These are the minutes of the EDC meeting of 6/23/23, held virtually via of Zoom.

Called to Order: 12:05 pm

EDC Members Present: Catherine Ussoff, Shirley Ming, Michael Carpenter, Patty Sutherland, Ann Chang, David Cote, Mike Majors

EDC Members Absent: Dan Malloy

Also present: Julie Pierce, Alissa Nicol

Preliminaries

Call the Roll – attendance is noted above

1. Regular Business

- Review of meeting minutes from previous meeting

June 2, 2023 Meeting minutes were approved by all members in attendance.

2. New/Special Business –

Mike Majors was recognized for his long-time service to the town of Acton, and especially appreciated for his advocacy for the new Minuteman Tech building and cross committee representation (Finance Committee and EDC).

Planning Board representative James Fuccione had some engagement with EDC, but has not been active lately. It is unclear whether he is officially appointed as the liaison to EDC.

Dave Cote was nominated by Mike Majors to be a finance committee member. The process of getting appointed needs clarification.

Discuss support of RH Adhesives.

RH Adhesives has been manufacturing specialty adhesives since 1949 in Acton. Mike Carpenter, CEO of RH Adhesives, originally contacted the Planning Director and another staff member in anticipation of making a good-faith effort to improve/restore the land next to the river. As a result of the visit by town employees, Mike learned that he had to go through a series of applications and receive approvals related to a recently installed storage unit that sits on footings behind his building.

EDC members (with Mike Carpenter abstaining) voted to provide support for RH Adhesives to urge the town to reach a mutually agreeable solution, recognizing the company's long history and its desire to act in an environmentally responsible way. The EDC's support aligns with the committee's goal of retaining existing businesses in town.

Julie suggested that EDC members might want to attend a meeting to discuss a wastewater feasibility study.

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA June 27, 2023 6:30 – 8:00 PM
*VIRTUAL MEETING

<https://actonma.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/18581>

Review of Select Board goals for 2023-24 (see list in repository)

There are comments and suggestions to list the alignment of the long-term goals with various plans, for example, climate action plan for clarity.

EDC goal setting for 2023-24

Members agree to discuss the goals as soon as possible.

South Acton Vision and Planning Advisory Group (Catherine)

In addition to planning for a revitalized South Acton, the group is proposing areas to be rezoned for multi-family housing by right to comply with the state's requirement for MBTA communities. In addition to multi-family zoning, the group will likely recommend zoning changes that encourage commercial development (retail and restaurant especially) in the South Acton Village District.

EDC director update:

Acton received a grant to support retail pop up stores.

Three Moms Pop Up is located at 577 Mass Ave and the participating brands will be there June 24 from 12pm-6pm getting set up and greeting visitors. There will be a ribbon cutting/Grand Opening on July 7th.

Grant for empty store front

Julie processed the grant for small businesses on Great Road, Salted Soul, in Acton Woods Plaza.

Next meeting dates:

August 4 and September 8.

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 pm.

Upcoming meetings and Action Items Identified in this Meeting:

Catherine will draft a letter of support for RH Adhesives permit application for the planning board meeting on July 18.

For more information about the Economic Development Committee, please send email to

EDC@actonma.gov