

EDC Minutes – 20 August 2015

These are the meeting minutes from the Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts. The meeting took place on 20 August 2015 at the Acton Town Hall in Room 204.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 by Dick Calandrella.

Present: Allan Gulliver, Bharat Shah, Chingsung Chang, David Foley, Derrick Chin, Dick Calandrella, Larry Kenah, Nancy Dinkel

Not present: Ann Chang, Doug Tindal, Josh Fischel

Summary

Public Participation (1)

There was no public participation.

Meeting Minutes (2)

The minutes from the EDC meeting on 6 August 2015 were approved with one minor changes related to signs in historic districts.

Board of Selectmen Report (3)

Chingsung Chang provided a brief report on items that the BoS are currently working on.

- They are looking at the zoning of Brookside Shops. (Derrick Chin provided a Planning Board update on Brookside Shops later in the meeting.)
- There are concerns related to the 40B proposed development on Elm Street.
- The BoS is considering adding additional liquor licenses to the total allotted to the town. (All existing licenses are currently being used.)
- David Foley asked about the sewage treatment plant currently serving the Nagog businesses and residences. The company charges very high fees for a service that is less than excellent.
- David also asked about funding for a proposed bus route that would serve highly populated residential areas, businesses, and important town properties such as the library. Chingsung said that the route selection was on the BoS agenda for that very morning.

Re-Organization of the EDC (4)

There was no progress on this item from the previous meeting.

Ease of Doing Business (5)

Allan Gulliver noticed that the location formerly known as Spruce Street Café was opening again and stopped in to visit the new owner, a person named David Hebert. The new name of the establishment would be Legend Café. Allan introduced himself as a member of EDC and asked how things were going.

While there was lots of progress on renovating the interior, there was a problem with the number of allowed seats in the restaurant. For some arcane reason, the restaurant would only be allowed to have four seats! Allan brought this to our attention to see if there was anything that the committee could do to fix the licensing issue.

Acton 2020 Update (6)

Larry Kenah pointed out that there were no meetings of the Kelley's Corner Steering Committee since the EDC last met.

Mission and Goals and Objectives (7)

Fixing the zoning for Brookside Shops was one of the suggested projects that the EDC would work on immediately. Derrick Chin suggested a different approach based on the Planning Board (PB) approach. The PB has no plans to bring any zoning changes related to Brookside Shops to Fall Town Meeting. As a result, the EDC should put its own action on hold until the PB again picks up this issue.

Larry Kenah offered an approach on whatever set of projects the EDC initially adopts.

- Each project needs an owner from the committee.
- That owner should make a report on a regular basis (every meeting, monthly, etc) on project status.
- Because some EDC members have larger time and effort commitments to other committees, the number of potential project leads and, as a result, the number of projects, is limited.

Town Businesses Database Update (8)

There was no discussion on this item. Larry Kenah indicated that he would create a so-called one pager that describes this project that we can use when we meet with the new ED Director.

Marketing Survey (9)

In the context of this item, we discussed inviting Marc Foster from West Acton to an upcoming meeting. (For the record, Marc Foster is on the agenda for the 3 September 2015 EDC meeting.)

The committee also expressed an interest in inviting Mathias Rosenfeld back for a visit but not at the same meeting with Marc Foster.

Upcoming Meetings (10)

In Closing

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

These minutes were recorded by Lawrence J Kenah, EDC Clerk.