

Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 21, 2019 Town Hall

Present: Vice Chair, Mike Donahue, Alicia Busconi, Bob Raymond, Selectman Ted Connors, Jill Boynton, John Lamson, Town Planner Jerry Coogan, Planning Board Member Russell Cooke, Town Administrator Martha Roy, Special Projects Coordinator Karen Anderson.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Minutes: J. Boynton moved to approve the August 29, 2019 minutes.
T. Connors seconded the motion with all in favor.

Economic Development Website Review:

K. Anderson gave a presentation of the new website features and noted that it is to go live after approval of the committee. K. Anderson and J. Strater have the ability to make changes from this point forward. The Board suggested that A. Busconi's presentation be added to the site. Cars & coffee will be interviewed to be a "spotlighted" business. Committee members were encouraged to check out the pages within the site and send any comments or changes to Karen.

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be January 9, 2020. A speaker will be arranged for the meeting, with a request to David Choate and/or Nancy Carlisle to speak to the committee about economic development ideas.

Business Appreciation Event-Debrief:

The consensus is that the event was a success. Alicia has continued to receive requests for copies of her presentation from brokers that did not attend the event. Planning for next years' event will include discussion of a varying the location.

Business Appreciation Week

K. Anderson said that she had been doing some research for other business appreciation ideas and suggested that a Business Appreciation Week could be designated by the town, with residents urged to shop local and businesses being presented with certificates of appreciation for being a Newington business. A. Busconi said that the Malls would likely want to assist in the "shop local" aspect. K. Anderson was asked to take the lead in this.

Development Update-Jerry Coogan:

J. Coogan reviewed the current and proposed projects that are taking place in Newington. The complete list is attached to these minutes.

Sewer Fees:

M. Roy told the committee that Newington's sewer rates are almost double that of some other towns, while the tax rate is much less. Stoneface Brewery has expressed their concerns about the

rates and in particular the timing of the increase which did not allow them to prepare for the increase. Newington's rates are double Portsmouth's rates although it is just a matter of time that Portsmouth increases their rates with the recent plant improvements. M. Roy said she is looking for some options that the town may be able to do to assist the businesses. K. Anderson said that sewer costs are an issue for all breweries due to the amount of water that they use. T. Connors told the committee that the Board of Selectmen will be meeting with the Sewer Commission on December 2 to talk about the concerns being raised from the business community. J. Coogan said that he went to Stoneface and talked with the owner and they are willing to talk with the Economic Development Committee members. They want to stay in Newington; their concerns are with the sewer rates and parking when they have events.

2020 Budget:

J. Coogan and K. Anderson left at this time. The EDC will present their budget on December 11th.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Roy

Town Administrator