

Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 24th, 2019 Town Hall

Present: Vice-Chair, Jeff Hiatt, Jill Boynton, Mike Donahue, Bob Raymond, John Lamson, Selectman Ted Connors, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Town Planner Jerry Coogan, Resident, John Chamberlin, Business Owner, Dave Caswell and Town Administrator Martha Roy.

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

Minutes Approval: M. Donahue moved to approve the minutes of March 29th, 2018. T. Connors seconded the motion with all in favor.

Elections of Officers:

T. Connors moved to nominate Jeff Hiatt as Chair of the Economic Development Committee. J. Boynton seconded the motion with all in favor.

T. Connors moved to nominate Mike Donahue as Vice-Chair of the Economic Development Committee. J. Boynton seconded the motion with all in favor.

Newington Business Appreciation Picnic/Reception Discussion:

Discussion was held regarding holding an appreciation event for existing businesses. It was agreed that focus on existing business retention was an important part of economic development. Given the large number of employees working in Newington all could not be accommodated at an event. Instead, the Committee plans to invite each business and let them know they can invite 2 to 3 guests. It was agreed that a business after hours event would be the most successful. Thursday, September 12, 2019 is the targeted date. The malls will be contacted and asked for list of 10-12 tenants.

M. Roy will coordinate with J. Strater to get a list of companies and contacts.

2019 Broker Mixer:

The Broker mixer will be a Thursday in October at Stoneface, possibly the 17th. M. Roy will contact CIBOR about date.

Guest Speaker for Committee Meetings:

The committee discussed various speaker ideas.

Andre Garron, Salem ED or Mike Bergeron from State Bureau of Economic Development, Geno Marconi, Port Director or George Bald previous Pease Development Authority Director. M. Roy will develop a schedule.

Website Update:

J. Strater will work on the final version and have a report for the next meeting.

Business Visitation Program:

Jerry Coogan had an excellent business visitation meeting with GP Gypsum. GP Gypsum produces wallboard. Their market is tied to housing starts.

The USAF is removing a building and pipeline on their property in the industrial zone. Many industries are interested in acquiring the land, Sea-3, Sprague and GP Gypsum.

Development Update:

G. Coogan updated the committee on current and future projects. Bugaboo creek will be torn down and an Aldi will be built closer to Barnes & Noble. A hotel is proposed for 141 Shattuck Way and a Subaru dealership is planning to locate on the Toys R Us property. Finally, a parking area expansion is being discussed for Rockingham Electric.

Meeting Schedule:

The committee would like to keep the regular meetings on the schedule, but can cancel the meeting if nothing relevant is happening.

J. Hiatt thought that the committee should look into developing a map and identify properties that are available and possibly the EDC could promote these properties.

ED Committee Bylaws Review:

The ED Committee bylaws were distributed.

M. Donahue discussed the Maritime Industrial Zone with the Committee. The vessel transit logs were reviewed. Out of all the shipping into the port over half is coming into Newington. This port is essential to the State and the region and is critical to lower gas and oil prices.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 30th at 6pm.

Adjournment: M. Donahue moved to adjourn. J. Boynton seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Roy
Town Administrator

