

Economic Development Committee

DRAFT Meeting Minutes: 15SEP2020 (Virtual)

Attendees: Kirby Lecy, Chair, Paul Silva, Gregory Fagan, Phil Papoojian, Rosemarie Meissner, Richie Wright

Regrets: Ron Putnam, Christina Sargent

Guest: Lorraine D'Souza

I. Call to order: 6:30

II. Public Comment

- a. Lorraine D'Souza who sits on the Open Space and Recreation committee is looking to attend other town meetings including AEDC.
- b. Fagan stated that there have been some concerns regarding the Old Lombard Building. There have been instances where children have been able to break in which is a public safety concern. AEDC should either ask Town Administrator to look further into the general concerns from the public and perhaps look to demolish, else, how can the town enforce the building safety.

III. Planning Meeting Discussion

- a. On Sept 23rd at 6:30 the AEDC will attend the Planning Board meeting and will be a joint meeting if there is a quorum. The goal is to further discussions regarding zoning.
- b. There will be some discussions regarding the language in the zoning bylaws related to green business.
- c. Kirby will draft a list of potential priorities that we would like to discuss at the planning meeting.

IV. Sub Committee Reports

- a. Signage
 - 1. Phil will look to send out for other quotes.
- b. Barriers to entry
 - 1. Phil will look to invite Ralph Kenney to the next meeting. Ralph is looking to develop in Ashburnham and subcommittee would be interested to have him come and discuss his perspectives.

V. Updated from Other Committees

- a. Selectmen
 - 1. Rosemarie stated that the town has applied for a MA Development Grant for potential redevelopment of downtown area including Central Street to Academy, Puffer and Maple an to Main St. The grant will look at 4 separate studies – existing condition study, generation study – tax revenue and market feasibility studies. This would be the same grant that we applied for in 2019.
- b. Shared Streets and Spaces Grant – because procurement rules prevented filing on time, town missed deadlines. Town is looking at other possibilities and will discuss at next Selectboard meeting;
- c. Agricultural Committee:
 - 1. AG Com has not met at this time.
- d. Cushing Academy

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1. Paul: Everything reiterated a strong covid medical plan for the students coming back to Cushing and how things are going to plan. They will look to reduce certain restrictions based on recommendations by medical.
 2. Ongoing construction of what was previously known as cook hall. Construction is underway and planning to be completed by January 2021
- e. Marijuana review
 1. There is another meeting to be scheduled to discuss with another company looking at potential opportunities in Ashburnham.
 2. Evokanna is currently working on licensing
- f. Rail trail
 1. North Quabbin Trails Association has approached committee to seek grant monies to fix up area around the Alltown area.
 2. Committee would like to apply for a mass trails grant
- VI. Meeting Minute Approval
 - a. 18AUG2020 Minutes. All voting members in favor.
- VII. Meeting Schedule
 - a. Next Meeting 20 OCT 2020
- VIII. Adjournment 7:27PM