

These are the minutes of the EDC meeting of 5/3/18, held in Room 9 of Acton Town Hall.

Called to Order: 7:33

Present: Mike Majors, Josh Fischel, Larry Kenah, Shirley Ming, Derrick Chin, Dave Didriksen

Absent: David Foley, Peter Daniel, Ann Chang, Selby

I. Public Participation

Terra is here, but presumably does not want to participate just yet; instead, she is observing from the good seats.

II. Welcome to Jon Benson

Jon Benson will be coming late, but he's our new liaison to the Board of Selectmen. Chingsung, you were a legend.

III. Approve minutes

Larry Kenah is unaware that anyone took notes at the previous EDC meeting. Derrick Chin, who took the notes, told Larry that Larry had, in fact, forwarded Derrick's notes out to everyone. We have no print copies because of Selby's absence, so Derrick instead let us know that Microsoft Word's updates are nonsense. We will enjoy approving them at our next meeting.

IIIa. Dave Didriksen asks what the self-assessment is; he is concerned that there is some confusion about us being an EDC as opposed to an EDIC. We're...not sure. But we'll still show up on Monday, May 14th, though Dave appears skeptical about the premise. Mike Majors seems to join him in that sentiment. If we're going to invite businesses, we should probably know what we're doing before we show up. Also: who is paying for it?

IV. EDC Initiative on the new rail trail

Selby has suckered Dave into a project yet again. There's a map put out by the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail group, and doesn't show with enough detail what businesses, attractions, or parking options there are along the way. Dave suggested that we do a business map for the Acton section. Selby's preference is to sell advertising space so that the map pays for itself. Larry asks if they'll be like those cheesy tourist maps; Dave says no. He wants a real map on one side and advertising on the back, or something like that. Other towns are doing it, so why not us? All relevant businesses should be listed; will they have to chip in to get listed? We'd want to make sure that the information provided is updated regularly and that there's value-added in it. Derrick encourages Dave to get it done quickly; Larry says we should get user feedback and then do several iterations. Dave will start next week; he just needed our official imprimatur. The EDC so moves.

FUN FACT: Larry feels that he has to qualify the term 'half-assed' to warn people with delicate ears.

V. Kelley's Corner Update

KCSC met on Monday; joined by owner of Bueno spot and Danny Factor, representing Green Acton. This coming Monday, BoS is going to figure out what to do next. Mike suggests re-branding. Larry gives a history of the fumbling of the planning for developing this area through Town Meeting. The question before the Board is whether to bring the funding proposal back to Town Meeting in the fall or the following spring. We were six votes short. Dave says the biggest problem being made is to sell it as a kitchen sink proposal; instead, tell us how much it will cost to do each piece.

Larry says that the 25% plan was submitted to MassDoT; they will conduct a formal plan review, probably in Room 204 at some point—not sure when, maybe June or July. There will be no zoning articles related to Kelley's Corner at fall Town Meeting.

There will be a KCSC meeting on Tuesday, May 15th in the small cafeteria in RJ Grey Middle School; it will be more of an open forum and collaborative effort instead of a formal presentation.

II revisited. Jon has arrived, so we did some introductions. He is objectively the most nattily dressed man in the room by leaps and bounds.

PUN OF THE WEEK: Dave wonders aloud if the bike path will have its own steering committee.

VI. Updates from members

Terra proposes that we go along with David Foley, who wants to delay doing an appraisal of the KMart lot; if we are to have the most leverage about what happens with that parcel, we have to understand the numbers ourselves before we do an appraisal, and we should hold off on doing that until we're pretty sure we won't get what we want from that property. Winstanley has separated from Stop & Shop, but is also threatening to do a 40B, but you have to be the owner of the property to do that.

This turned into a very long discussion about how to approach the development of the parcel and the future of Acton.

Derrick wants more members of the EDC to attend the volunteer appreciation event, because he was the 4th person there last year. It is a BIG day for celebrating: senior center event, Rail Trail opening, and that. On May 9th, he encourages people to attend a Community Resilience Workshop, run by Cory York (disaster preparation).

There was even discussion of who the oldest citizen is in Acton!

VII. Adjourned @ 9:20