



Economic Development Committee Meeting

August 5, 2010

Room #204

Acton Town Hall

Attending

At Large: Dick Calandrella, Ann Chang, Nancy Dinkel, Leigh Davis-Honn, Joe Ianelli, Doug Tindal (Chairman).

Ex Officio: Roland Bartl, Planning Department.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm. Minutes of the July 15, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

1). Oversight Meeting

The annual Oversight Meeting of the Acton Board of Selectmen scheduled for August 23, 2010 was discussed with emphasis on the presentation to be made by the Economic Development Committee.

2). Open Meeting Law

The New Open Meeting Law was discussed, contrasting the latest provisions of the law with their older counterparts.

3). Signage By-Law

An extended period of discussion took place, centered on the issues surrounding the Town of Acton Signage By-Law, namely:

- (a). the Signage Review Committee (Step One),
- (b). the By-Law enforcement process (Step Two),
- (c). education (Step Three).

While it was noted that the current dilemma associated with the By-Law is due primarily to its lack of enforcement over a period of years – and, to a lesser extent, to confusing specifications within the By-Law itself – several Committee members pointed out that manpower requirements needed to address and resolve the three-step process cited above are beyond those available to the Planning Department. These same Committee members suggested that deputizing qualified, and vetted, Town citizens might be an alternative approach to closing this manpower gap.

A spreadsheet listing all business owners currently in violation of the By-Law will be made available to EDC members by R. Bartl/Planning Dept..

4). New Business Development

The Committee requested that the Planning Department compile a summary listing of all development in Acton, either ongoing or planned.

It was noted that Planners Collaborative, Inc., in conjunction with their work on the Comprehensive Community Plan project (CCP), will submit their listing of all businesses in Acton to the EDC. This listing will be used, in part, to support the upcoming EDC Business Survey.

This meeting of the Economic Development Committee was adjourned at 8:40pm.

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