



These are the minutes of the EDC meeting of 9/3/20, held remotely at 7 pm

Called to Order: 7:02 pm

Members Present: Mike Majors, Ann Chang, Josh Fischel, Larry Kenah, Shirley Ming, Jon Benson, Dan Malloy, Derrick Chin

Staff Present: Selby (Economic Development Director)

Members Absent: David Foley, Peter Daniel, David Didriksen

Visitors/Guests: John Raguin

“Good evening. It is 7:03 pm. This Open Meeting of the Economic Development Committee is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker’s Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth, and the Local State of Emergency declared by the Acton Board of Selectmen and Board of Health due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Virus.

“In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, the Board of Selectmen has suspended all public gatherings, and in accordance with the Governor’s Order all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely. The Governor’s Order, allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations and Committee votes of the meeting.

“Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will feature public comment from invited guests. For this meeting, the Economic Development Committee is convening by video conference via the Zoom application. The meeting agenda posted on the Town’s Website calendar indicates how the public may join.

“Please note that this meeting is being recorded and that some attendees are participating by video conference. Accordingly, please be aware that other folks may be able to see you and anything that you broadcast may be captured by the recording.

“All of the materials for this meeting, except for any Executive Session materials, are available in the public DocuShare folder, and we recommend that the members and the public follow the agenda as posted.

“We are now turning to the first item on the agenda. Before we do so, permit me to cover some ground rules for effective and clear conduct of our business, and to ensure accurate meeting minutes.

- Selby or I will introduce each speaker on the agenda. After they conclude their remarks, I will then go down the line of Members, inviting each by name to provide any comment, questions, or motions. Please hold until your name is called. Further,

- o Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking;
- o Please remember to speak clearly and in a way that helps generate accurate

minutes

- For any response, please wait until the Chair yields the floor to you, and state your name before speaking.

- If members wish to engage in discussion with other members, please do so through the Chair, taking care to identify yourself.

“After members have spoken, the Chair will afford public comment as follows:

o The Chair will first ask members of the public who wish to speak to identify their names and addresses only after first being recognized by the Chair, and will be afforded two minutes for their comment or question.

• Finally, each vote taken in this meeting will be conducted by roll call vote. This requirement extends to the vote to adjourn.”

I. Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes from 6 August 2020.

Roll Call Vote to approve minutes: yes: 7 no: 0 abstain: 0

2. Public participation

None at this time.

II. New/Special Business

3. Article 4, the Small Business Grant Program

Jon Benson reminds us that he has shared a YouTube link of his pre-Town Meeting presentation, and asks for feedback. Mike Majors voices his approval for it, especially the testimony of business owners.

Business owners from out of town can speak; business owners who can't be there can submit a written statement—no longer than two minutes—to be read by any member of the EDC. He's hoping to have the 43 small business owners who would be impacted at the meeting itself. John Raguin has reached out to as many of them as he could via email.

- Statement of support

We reviewed the EDC's statement of support and did a little finessing of Larry's draft and Dan's revision.

4. Update on Restaurant Week (Peter Daniel, Selby)

It will be October 25th-31st. The website has been updated with the new date; more will happen after Town Meeting. Selby wants restauranteurs to stick with a three-course pre fixe menu and to offer take-out options.

III. More Regular Business

5. Updates from members

Be Kind Acton continues to be Mike's personal crusade; he's reached out to Peter Light to see if the signs can and should be a present at the schools.

6. Update from Director of Economic Development

The Asian market (and 40-seat restaurant) is now moving forward at ye olde Willow Books location. The Bickford's will become a breakfast and lunch place called As Good As it Gets.

7. Next meeting – date and time

It is set for October 1st at 7 pm.

We discuss some IT issues with signing into the meeting.

Move to adjourn passes unanimously at 7:49 pm.

IV. **Consent Items**

9. None

Additional materials

- Draft meeting minutes from 6 August 2020