

EDC Minutes – 4 October 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by Dick Calandrella, acting chair.

Present: Allan Gulliver, Ann Chang, Dave Clough, David Didriksen, Derrick Chin, Dick Calandrella, Jeoff Hall, Larry Kenah, Nancy Dinkel

Missing: Chris Pappas, Doug Tindal

Public Participation

The committee listened to and discussed a problem described by Jacob Abrahams, representing Axe Brothers. Jacob's father, Charles Abrahams, joined the meeting later in the discussion.

Axe Brothers is a tree removal company located in North Acton. Some of the trees are brought to the North Acton site, split into firewood, and later removed from the site. While an initial complaint was issued based on noise, the Planning Department eventually issued a cease and desist order to Thomas Trudeau, owner of the property. The letter, dated 10 January 2012, cited violations of Section 3.7 of Zoning Bylaws.

- Heating fuel sales, service and storage
- Storage yard, contractor's yard or other open air establishment for storage, distribution, or sale of materials, merchandise, products or equipment

During the discussion, several committee members expressed concern about the impact of enforcing this section of the bylaw for all establishments who store or sell firewood.

The committee explored options at its disposal. Ann Chang made the following motion.

- The Economic Development Committee supports a review of Section 3.7 of the Zoning Bylaws to update and modernize its impact. The committee further supports that Axe Brothers be allowed to continue its business as this issue is resolved.

Dave Clough seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Committee Business

- Minutes from the meeting of 6 September 2012 were approved.
- Larry Kenah was elected clerk of the EDC.

Planning Board Updates

Planning Board ZA1 ... ZA6

Derrick Chin provided a brief update on ZA1 thru ZA6. These are new zoning bylaw amendments being proposed by the Planning Department for consideration by the Planning Board. They are a result of a citizen inquiry to the Planning Department about outdoor sales.

CVS

CVS is looking at moving into a new building on Massachusetts Avenue on the site currently occupied by Goodyear Tire. They started the process some time ago but put discussions on hold. They are restarting the process. There are two points of interest.

- CVS would like the building away from the street with a parking lot in front. The town would like the building closer to the street to encourage the feel of a neighborhood.
- CVS would like a drive-through window for prescriptions. No drive-through access is currently allowed except for banks.

Dave Clough recommended that CVS work with the Design Review Board.

Acton TV

Dave Clough brought up Acton TV as a tool that EDC can use to promote businesses in town.

- Much of the Acton TV programming is also available via Video on Demand.
- Acton TV can be seen on Verizon on channels 40, 41, and 45.
- Acton TV can be seen on Comcast on channels 8, 9, and 99.

We will create a brainstorm list of topics to discuss at a future meeting. We will include the use of Acton TV on this list.

Items from Earlier Meetings

Review Ease-of-Doing Business

Derrick Chin will attempt to get Scott Mutch to comment on the latest version of Process for Obtaining a Business Sign.

Other Items

There was nothing to report on the following three items.

- Donation Boxes
- Updates on Marketing Survey/Process
- Updates on Electronic Business Directory

The meeting adjourned at 9:22.