

EDC Minutes – 18 April 2013

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These are the meeting minutes from the Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts. The meeting took place on 18 April 2013 at the Acton Town Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 by Nancy Dinkel.

Present: Ann Chang, Chris Pappas, Dave Clough, Derrick Chin, Dick Calandrella, Larry Kenah, Nancy Dinkel

Missing: Allan Gulliver, David Didriksen, Doug Tindal

Minutes from the meeting of 21 March 2013 were approved. Approval of the minutes from the 4 April 2013 meeting was deferred until the next meeting.

Summary

The meeting time was spent on two items.

- Restaurants in Acton
- Town meeting postscript

Restaurants

An e-mail that Derrick Chin received and forwarded to the committee prompted this discussion

Query

Derrick received a request about restaurants in Acton. The committee concluded that the request was less about a prospective new business and more a general request for information. No further action will be taken.

Panera

Panera Bread will meet (has met) with the Board of Selectmen on 22 April.

- How long a lease will be requested?
- A zoning issue is density, floor area of the restaurant compared with available parking.
- Panera will raze the existing structure and build a new restaurant.
- What does the town want?

There was general consensus that this will happen.

Other Items

There are new large development in progress or in planning in several surrounding towns including Westford (completed), Littleton (in progress), and Maynard (still being discussed).

There seems to be some movement at the site of the former Scupper Jack's.

Town Meeting

It seems that nobody was happy with the recently concluded town meeting. Key issues include the overall format of the meeting and the division of time. One session ran until well after 11:00 pm when most attendees had already departed.

There is a special town meeting scheduled for early June to further discuss regionalization. It is not clear whether any other items might appear on that meeting's agenda. The general consensus was that additional items are unlikely.

Might there be a zoning meeting in the fall?

Other Items

There is nothing to add on HDC sign bylaws.

Changes to the first floor, left hand side are sitting behind several items including transferring records from paper (and filing cabinets) and several department moves.

In Closing

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

These minutes were recorded by Lawrence J Kenah, EDC Clerk.