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EDC Minutes – 9 July 2013

These are the meeting minutes from the Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts. The meeting took place on 9 July 2013 at the Acton Town Hall. Because the committee did not meet on its usual meeting day, the meeting took place in Room 121 instead of Room 204.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Nancy Dinkel.

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

Missing: Doug Tindal

This meeting had a single agenda item, Review of Kelley's Corner Initiative. The date was selected because comments were due on 10 July, a day before the EDC's next regularly scheduled meeting.

Summary

The purpose of this meeting was to decide whether the EDC would comment on the RFP before it was sent to external vendors and what that response would be.

After much discussion, the committee decided that it did not support the RFP "as currently written".

Details

Background

At Town Meeting, the town voted to allocate funds for an engineering study and preliminary work associated with Kelley's Corner. The town sent a draft RFP to several board and committees for comment.

- The draft RFP was sent on 1 July 2013.
- Comments were due on 10 July 2013.

Discussion on Draft RFP

Discussion moved between the Draft RFP itself and concerns with the overall Kelley's Corner Initiative. These comments are associated with the Draft RFP. (Note that these comments reflect the initial Draft RFP. Some of these issues may have been corrected before the RFP was sent to potential vendors.)

- There seemed to be very little time for committees such as EDC to develop a formal response: nine days that included a long weekend due to a national holiday.
- The RFP was "terribly vague".
- There were no specific selection criteria.

- Would vendors submit bids that reflected the amount of money allocated by Town Meeting?

Discussion on Kelley's Corner Initiative

The committee repeated some of its earlier conversations about Kelley's Corner. In particular, several members pointed out that the town does not control any of the real estate associated with Kelley's Corner.

Conclusion

At the end of discussion, the committee decided that it did not support the RFP as currently written. Nancy Dinkel would respond with the committee's recommendation and advice.

In Closing

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

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