

EDC Minutes – 1 May 2014

These are the meeting minutes from the Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts. The meeting took place on 1 May 2014 at the Acton Town Hall.

The meeting was called to order promptly at 7:30 pm by Nancy Dinkel.

Present: Allan Gulliver, Chris Pappas, Derrick Chin, Dick Calandrella, Larry Kenah, Nancy Dinkel

Not Present: Ann Chang, Doug Tindal

There was no public participation.

Minutes from the 20 March 2014 meeting were approved with one minor edit.

Board of Selectmen Report (3)

This will be a standing agenda item to accommodate reports from our liaison to the Board of Selectmen. We do not yet have a new member following the elections so this section is empty for this meeting.

Acton 2020 Update (4)

Larry Kenah provided an update of the April meeting of the Kelley's Corner Steering Committee. His summary is attached to these minutes.

Woods Plaza Association Update (5)

On 14 April 2014, Derrick Chin and Larry Kenah attended a regular meeting of the Woods Plaza retailers (intersection of Routes 27 and 119). The initial purpose of the meeting was for Derrick to help the association get a sign in place that listed the tenants in the plaza. The attendees used our presence to describe some of the problems they have encountered when dealing with town departments, specifically the Building Department and the Planning Department.

We concluded that the right next step is for Derrick and Larry to meet with Frank Ramsbottom and Roland Bartl.

Update from Selectmen (6)

This item is a repeat of Item 3. We used it as an opportunity for an update on the plan from the Town of Concord to park its school buses and other town vehicles on property that it purchases on Knox Trail in Acton.

Due to some problems with its original plan, Concord has moved its focus from 55 Knox Trail to 37 Knox Trail. This latter property connects to some of the W R Grace property located in Concord

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Goals (7)

Video Interviews

We spent some time talking about a set of recorded interviews with current Acton businesses so that we could tell their stories to other prospective businesses. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea but we spent some time discussing some of the hurdles associated with such an effort.

- Acton TV has guidelines in place that do not allow commercial messages. It is not clear whether we can engage businesses to answer questions like why they came to Acton and what they consider Acton's benefits while not telling the world why their particular business is so wonderful.
- Dick Calandrella described the tremendous amount of work required to put together one or more such interviews. Some of the work would be completed by Acton TV volunteers but much of the work would fall on the shoulders of one or more EDC members.

Existing Documents

Derrick Chin pointed out that some of the information that we would like to assemble already exists as part of the Comprehensive Community Plan assembled by the Acton 2020 Committee. In particular, he pointed us to critical appendices in one of the documents. This can be located by starting at the town's document repository and following the links.

- <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/HomePage>
 - Public Meetings
 - Acton 2020 Committee
 - FINAL PLAN
 - 20 - Acton Community Plan - Volume II - Appendices 4-6

Derrick Chin Meeting

Dave Parker, based in Carlisle, has a business called Wicked Loyal that consists of a 4" x 6" kiosk where a customer can type in their phone number and input comments or needs. Cost is \$99/month. Dave Clough met him at a Chamber of Commerce meeting and recommended that someone from the EDC meet with him. Derrick Chin met with him and reported the summary. The EDC did not see any further action on this service at this time.

Remaining Agenda Items

There were no updates on agenda items #8 through #11.

In Closing

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

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