

EDC Minutes – 19 March 2015

These are the meeting minutes from the Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts. The meeting took place on 19 March 2015 at the Acton Town Hall in Room 126.

The meeting was called to order shortly after 7:30 by Nancy Dinkel.

Present: Allan Gulliver, Derrick Chin, Nancy Dinkel, Franny Osman, Doug Tindal, Bharat Shah, Josh Fischel

Not present: Larry Kenah, Ann Chang, David Foley, Dick Calandrella

Summary

There was no public participation.

1. It was agreed, in the interest of time efficiency, that the entire Committee would not review our compilation of Objectives and Action Items. Instead, Nancy Dinkel and Larry Kenah will review the inputs from the three sub-committees and “harmonize” these into one coherent document.
2. The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2015. The sense of the Committee is that we should try to complete our presentation material for the Board of Selectmen no later than the end of April.
3. Our next meeting is Thursday, April 2nd. We will need to arrange an alternate conference room for that meeting.
4. The proposed meals tax is equal to three quarters of one penny for each dollar spent on meals (0.75 cent per one dollar). In our preliminary discussion about the proposed meals tax, there were differing points of view on the Committee. There was disagreement about when and whom to invite to a meeting on the meals tax issue: local business owners? Business owners from other towns that already have the tax? We will discuss this topic further in our next meeting.
5. The meeting minutes for February 5, 2015 were approved by a unanimous vote. The meeting minutes for February 12, 2015 were also approved by a unanimous vote.
6. Franny Osman distributed an informative flier about the Acton Commission on Disabilities. There is an upcoming public fair to be held on April 29th.
7. Franny Osman attended the EDC meeting in Westford today. It was informative and she relayed that members from that active committee and the associated Business Association would be happy to attend a meeting of our EDC. There is a tool developed by Northeastern University called “EDSAT” that Westford is using. It is a self-assessment tool. Franny suggests that Acton consider whether we want to use this tool.

8. In addition to April 2nd, we may need to arrange an alternate conference room for May 7th and May 21st

9. Derrick Chin provided a detailed update on the Brookside Shops. The Committee voted formally in favor of the proposed zoning change for the Brookside Shops. Derrick will plan to attend Town Meeting to highlight the EDC's position on this proposed zoning change.

10. Franny Osman pointed out that our EDC Committee could benefit greatly by inviting veteran members of neighboring town EDC's to visit and share information/ideas with us. All agreed that would be valuable. With respect to timing, the sense of the Committee was that we should complete our presentation for the Board of Selectmen first. Then, we can start to invite neighboring EDC counterparts.

The meeting was adjourned at approx. 9:15 PM.

These minutes were recorded by Allan Gulliver.