

EDC Minutes – 2 July 2015

These are the meeting minutes from the Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts. The meeting took place on 2 July 2015 at the Acton Town Hall in Room 204.

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

Present: Allan Gulliver, Chingsung Chang, David Foley, Derrick Chin, Dick Calandrella, Larry Kenah, Nancy Dinkel

Not present: Ann Chang, Bharat Shah, Doug Tindal, Josh Fischel

As of this meeting, the Economic Development Committee has new officers. They are listed below under agenda item 3.

Summary

Public Participation (1)

There was no public participation.

Meeting Minutes (2)

The minutes from the EDC meeting on 18 June 2015 were approved with two minor edits.

Election of Officers (3)

At the previous meeting, the EDC discussed election of officers. The current officers had served in their roles for at least three years. After a brief discussion, the following people were all unanimously elected.

- Dick Calandrella – chair
- David Foley – vice chair
- Larry Kenah – clerk

At this point, Nancy Dinkel handed the gavel to Dick Calandrella who chaired the remainder of the meeting.

The committee once again thanked Nancy Dinkel for her several years as chair of the EDC. Nancy will continue as a regular member of the EDC.

Dick Calandrella noted that nearly all current members have terms that expire at the same time (June 2017). He volunteered to work with Town Clerk to stagger these terms so that roughly one third of the committee members have three-year terms that expire each year. With some help from Larry Kenah, he will then work on updating the member list that appears on the town Web page for the EDC.

Board of Selectmen Report (4)

Chingsung Chang mentioned a couple of items to be discussed at upcoming BoS meetings.

- The Haartz Corporation has a hearing on a proposed expansion of its cafeteria.

- There is a proposal to rent Morrison Farm. There are concerns about both financial and hazard liability to the town.

Larry Kenah told Chingsung that Doug Tindal can provide lots of background on Morrison Farm.

During this part of the meeting, Derrick Chin asked about PAYT. We pointed out that this issue was discussed and voted on at an earlier BoS meeting.

Derrick Chin also provided a brief report on the groundbreaking ceremony for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Apparently, many more people than expected attended the event.

Acton 2020 Update (5)

There was no update from Kelley's Corner Steering Committee. There were no KCSC meetings that took place after the most recent EDC meeting (18 June 2015).

Mission and Goals and Objectives (6)

Larry Kenah has received comments on the Mission and Goals document from several EDC members. He reminded everyone that 2 July was the final date for substantial comments on the document. (Editorial comments are still welcome.)

Town Businesses Database Update (7)

There was a brief discussion about some of the goals for a town database of businesses.

- Residents and others could use the database to learn about what businesses are located in the Town of Acton.
- The town could use such a database for communications aimed specifically at businesses.

We again mentioned that we should focus on a subset of businesses to initiate the effort. David Foley suggested a geographic subset. Other suggested business type such as retail as a good initial subset.

Historic District Commission Sign Bylaw Progress (8)

David Foley noted that HDC would not meet again until the middle of July.

Nancy Dinkel asked whether HDC is amenable to changes in the sign bylaws. David indicated no changes right now. When asked about signs made of material other than wood, he brought up the "slippery slope" concern about challenges then being made against other requirements where specific materials are called for or excluded in bylaws.

Nancy asked how other towns and other HDCs dealt with sign materials. David responded that each HDC in the Commonwealth has its own specific bylaws as it related to signage or none at all.

Rest of Agenda (9 and 10)

There was no action on either of these items.

Upcoming Meetings (11)

Dick Calandrella asked about changing meeting frequency during the summer months. He indicated that he would poll committee members about whether we could reach quorum for the next scheduled meeting on 16 July 2015.

In Closing

Member Updates

Derrick Chin noted the Rob Gronkowski would be signing copies of his recently published book at Willow Books on Saturday, 18 July 2015. Derrick indicated that he would forward the invitation to EDC members.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

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