



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD/COMMITTEE NAME: Mendon Economic Development Committee

DATE OF MEETING: Monday October 2, 2017

TIME OF MEETING: 5:30 P.M.

LOCATION OF MEETING: Town Hall

Members Present: Tom Merolli (Chair), Karen Wheet (Secretary), Anne Mazar, Tim Perrson, John Danielson, Jordan Berry

Others Present: N/A

Meeting called to order 5:36 by chair Tom Merolli

1. Reviewed and approved 8/7/17 and 9/11/17 minutes
2. Discussed Conservation and Affordable Housing. Per Bill Henry R/E tax portion is broken up 10% open, 10% historical, 10% affordable housing, 70% recreational and a mix of the prior (3). Goal, 10% of all homes in mendon should be affordable = 240 units. If not met - 40B = affordable housing with no control. There is no deadline to meet the 240 requirement. Affordable housing Definition – 80% of median income of the area. Med. Income currently is \$106K. Housing would be desirable for workforce, younger adults and people downsizing (retirement). If we can develop Route 16, top floor of buildings could be designated affordable housing.
3. Marijuana facility potential in Mendon. Selectman are against dispensary, possibly due to more law enforcement needed. Growing facility could be okay.

Need to discuss with Selectman. Need to know classification of a growing facility. Tax base is important – is it agricultural or commercial? The medical cultivator in Milford wanted to expand to recreational and are looking to leave Milford.

4. Route 16 Development: Co-op idea – Tom has reached out to the Agricultural committee. Peter Hawkes may be contact for a co-op idea. There could be one active in Berlin. Grocery store potential – Big Bunny?

5. Open for Business – 10/18/17. (5) businesses confirmed (1 gunshop, other small bus.). We may have to support this more. Tom will check to see if the calls will be made to push awareness by Blackstone chamber. Anne Mazar will submit article to Town Crier by 10/3/17. Confirmed attendees: Town admin, planning board, Selectman, Building Inspector, Police Chief. Tom to send list of business to EDC members (completed as of this writing).

6. Other – EDC to attend Board meeting on 10/16. Meet at 6:15:

- talk about Route 16 parcel and their intentions.
- find out results from town marijuana informational meeting
- Update them on breakfast meeting
- Get a sense of what they want from EDC
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Action Items:

- Jeannie Hebert will introduce us to CMRPC, Mass office of Development, Meghan Duprete – Corridor Commission. – will be completed at breakfast meeting
- TM to get budget deadline dates
- JD to talk to a developer and to check on website to post RFP
- TM to contact Franklin EDC to see how they brought in Marijuana grow facility
- Find out classification of marijuana grow facility
- TM to continue to reach out Agricultural committee to check on co-op idea.
- TM to check with Blackstone Chamber to get update on Breakfast meeting attendees. EDC may have to contact small businesses directly.
- EDC to attend Selectman meeting on 10/16/17.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:18 PM by chair Tom Merolli

Next meeting: 11/6/17 5:30 p.m.

The Chair reserves the right to call items on the agenda out of order. The times that are listed for items are approximate times, and items may be reached earlier or later than the posted times. The listing of items is those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.