

March 26, 2013

TOWN OF STERLING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the Economic Development Committee for the Town of Sterling was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Those in attendance were: Jeffrey Donaldson, Ronald Furmaniuk, James Patacchiola, Michael Pineo, Paul Rehrig, and Kevin Sanders. Mr. Donaldson, temporary chair of the committee, called the meeting to order and kept minutes of the meeting.

The first item of business was a welcome to the members of the committee. Each member then provided the rest of the members with his business background and experience.

The committee reviewed administrative items regarding being sworn in at the Town Clerk's office, receiving a copy of the open meeting law, and completing an on-line ethics test through the State's website. Mr. Donaldson reported that the Attorney General has approved the formation of the committee.

The committee reviewed the committee's charge, as outlined in Article 11 of the warrant for the special Town meeting held on November 13, 2012.

The committee reviewed the concept outline that had been presented to the Board of Selectmen prior to the drafting and submission of Article 11 to the Town for approval. Article 11 and the concept outline are attached to these minutes. Committee members discussed the importance of addressing zoning issues as well as expanding utility services in Sterling for the benefit of the business committee, including running three phase power to the commercial and industrial zones and considering whether it would be feasible to bring natural gas lines to Sterling.

The committee discussed the potential for an intern from the Clark University Masters in Public Administration program. Mr. Donaldson agreed to follow up with the Clark University Small Business Development Center to see what demographic information is available for the Town of Sterling as well as other resources that could be made available to our committee.

The committee discussed other resources available to the committee for gathering information about businesses located in the Town. Mr. Pineo suggested asking the Town Clerk about a list of businesses that have obtained a business license. It was noted that the Wachusett Regional National Honor Society has a community service requirement and that perhaps the committee could obtain the services of a student for some research. It was also suggested that the committee arrange to have a guest speaker every month, drawn from one of the businesses in Sterling, to discuss issues facing local businesses.

The committee discussed proposed Article 4 of the spring Town Meeting Warrant, which would create and fund a Town Planner position. After extensive discussion, the committee

agreed that it was premature to create and fund such a position, and Mr. Furmaniuk said that he would report that to the Board of Selectmen.

The committee agreed that the fourth Monday of every month would be a good time for the committee to meet.

After discussion, and upon a motion made by Mr. Pineo and seconded by Mr. Patacchiola, it was unanimously

VOTED: That Jeffrey L. Donaldson be elected Chair of the committee, to serve until the March 2014 meeting of the committee and thereafter until his successor is elected.

After discussion, and upon a motion made by Mr. Pineo and seconded by Mr. Rehrig seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: That James Patacchiola be elected Vice Chair of the committee, to serve until the March 2014 meeting of the committee and thereafter until his successor is elected.

After discussion, and upon a motion made by Mr. Pineo and seconded by Mr. Patacchiola, it was unanimously

VOTED: That Kevin Sanders be elected Secretary of the committee, to serve until the March 2014 meeting of the committee and thereafter until his successor is elected.

There being no further business to come before the committee, upon a motion made by Mr. Pineo and seconded by Mr. Rehrig, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn.

Adjourned as voted.

Jeffrey L. Donaldson, Secretary *pro tem*