

Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, 25 March 2019 Meeting
9:00 am

Attendees: Jim Patacchiola, Chair
Richard Maki
Domenica Tatasciore, Town Planner
Keith Cordial
Rosanne Mapp, Secretary
Maureen Cranson, BOS
Paul Cathcart

Guest: Lex Thomas
Jed Lindholm

Non-attendees: Mike Pineo, Vice Chair
Ross Perry, Town Administrator

Call to Order: 9:00 am

Meeting Minutes of 24 February 2019.
1st: M. Cranson 2nd: P. Cathcart All in Favor

L. Thomas Update:

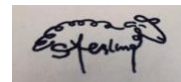
Small Business Administration:

1. Luncheon held on 13 February held in the Town Hall, 12 Businesses attended and several members of the EDC.
2. Members from the Chamber of Commerce, Leominster and Townsend attended and gave their input on creating a Small Business Administration and the benefits.
3. Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 27 March, 2019 at Town Hall, 8:00am.** Topics to be discussed: Mission and goal Statements. Lex expects it will take 3-6 months for this group to be self sustaining.

Sterling Cleanup (name to be changed):

Logo for EDC and other uses. Requests that the word Sterling be in silver ink.

- Lex to get slot on next Board of Selectman's meeting to get formal approval for the use of this logo to be on town letterhead.



-Hopeful town businesses will assist in Town Clean-up, scheduled for **Saturday, 27 April 2019**

-It was noted that the 27 April is opening day for Little League. Discussions ensued about getting the Little League Coordinator to make an announcement for their participation

-If the 27th is raining, it is suggested that a “**rain date**” be the following day, **Sunday, 28 April 2019**

-K.Cordial recommended a competition to be associated with this with Social Media coverage. All in favor of this.

-Lex Thomas will coordinate effort. Next publishing of the Meetinghouse News will be 10 April, which leaves plenty of time to get pertinent information published.

-Motion to approve a spending limit of up to \$200. for Lex Thomas to place an advertisement in the Meetinghouse News for its 10 April edition the Ad should be ¼ page in color. Motion: R. Maki, Second, M. Cranson, all in favor.

- **Sterling Day**

Suggested it be a separate day from the clean-up day. This requires a larger effort to coordinate.

-Proposed date will be sometime in May.

-Vision for Sterling Day will be to promote local farms, businesses in the community.

-Motion made to task Lex Thomas to look into creating a “Sterling Day”, R. Mapp, 2nd P. Cathcart, all in favor

Town Planner

Proposed protective Bylaw & Zoning amendments for the

- Planning Board **10 April 2019 Public Hearing at 7:00 pm, BOS Room, Town Hall.**

-Domenica went through the zoning map to discuss the changes.

- currently zoned Neighborhood Residential to be included in the Town Center zoning.

- Homeowners benefit by being able to open home businesses, increased property value, etc.

Zoning map that was discussed can be adjusted a need be.

– Also discussed were some changes to the current verbiage to be named Quarrying or Mining in place of “Earth Removal”.

-All these changes have been reviewed by the Town Attorney for approval.

-Also spoke of a Citizen Petition regarding Marijuana establishments.

– Allowing marijuana to be grown here, in Sterling, but not sold in any way in the town.

– Produce will be sold to other areas only.

– EDC to write a letter of support for these articles.

– Motion to approve, R. Mapp 2nd M. Cranson All in favor

Budget

- The EDC (J. Patacchiola) submitted a request for next year's budget to Fin Com of \$26K. This will be approved and voted on at Town Meeting. J. Patacchiola should be prepared at the Town Meeting to present.
- As noted above \$200.00 was voted on for publicity for Sterling Clean up.

Town Activity:

Town Center Revitalization

-Working Group meets weekly to discuss the Town Center. Progress being made determining

-sidewalk construction (concrete with pressed & colored to resemble bricks along the outer edge).

-group walked the Village area to determine sidewalks, road adjustments and additional parking.

-next meeting in two weeks 4 April 2019. Group meets at Town Hall.

Farmer's Market: M. Pineo

No Input

Master Plan Committee

Committee is planning on its **Open House at the Senior Center on 4 April 2019, 4:00-8:00.**

EDC Committee Members are asked to lend assistance during the Open house

-Housing, R. Protano -Transportation, **R. Maki** -Facilities,

-EDC, **J. Patacchiola & P Cathcart** -General Information, **R. Mapp**

The Committee will present to the Planning Board this **Wednesday, 27 March 2019** a request for a permanent committee to be formed.

BOS Report/Update: M. Cranson

- Ross Perry and Maureen Cranson have requested input from Clearview Farms and Meadowbrook Orchards to query if they have any interest in having a satellite of their business in the 1835 Building.
- Clearview may be interested in maintaining a coffee shop in that location.

Other Happenings

- R. Maki and A. Driscoll are looking into starting a non-profit for Cultural events in Sterling which will utilize the 1835 Building
 - Proposed to utilize the upper level of the building as a cultural event space for Art shows, musicals, theater, etc.
 - Proposed lower level to be utilized as a place to have coffee and refreshments before or after event.
 - R. Mapp suggested the remainder of the building be utilized as a “mini-Fanuiel Hall” whereby vendors could sell their wares to meet the Town's needs.

Abandoned/Nuisance Property

- No additional input.

Facade Program

No input.

Recommended Letters

R. Maki suggests that the EDC write letters in support of the following;

- support BOS and 1935 Committee requesting an RFI by interested parties in leasing a portion of the first floor of the 1835 building for a coffee/sandwich shop.
- support 1935 Committee for adding a fire suppression system to the 1835 building
- support the Town Center Revitalization study for a town-maintained parking area behind 27 Main Street for public parking with signage.
- improve parking spaces in Downtown area under consideration by the Revitalization group.
- recommendation for the Revitalization group for pavement type for sidewalks from the SMLD to Butterick boundary on both sides of the street. Approval of project by SMLD and DPW.

Motion to follow through on writing the above letters; R. Mapp 2nd R. Maki all in favor

EDC Sub Committee (P. Cathcart, R. Maki and M. Pineo)

- The sub-committee decided to step back for the moment. There is work to be done regarding storm water runoff. The Town has acquired a \$1M grant to fix the issue. Awaiting monies from the State.

Cement post is broken and re-bar is exposed. B. Tuttle, DPW will remove the damaged post and replace with something new.

On Going Projects.

- P. Cathcart suggested putting signs up with "Littering" signs.
 - Questions open: Where should they be placed.
 - D. Maki will check with DPW for their sign manufacturer

New Member of the EDC welcomes Jed Lindholm who has agreed to join our Committee.

Next MEETING:

{{ Monday, 22 April 2019, 9:00 am. BOS Mtg. Room

Adjourn 11:00 am Motion M. Cranson 2nd J. Patacchiola All in favor.