

Economic Development Committee

April 25, 2022

Butterick Building, 1 Park Street, Room 205

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:55 am by Chair James Patacchiola

Present: James Patacchiola, Rosanne Mapp, Richard Maki, Keith Cordial, Paul Cathcart, Michael Pineo

Past Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the March 28, 2022 meeting were approved

Sterling Clean-Up Day. The April 16th Clean Up day was a success; volunteers were enthusiastic, and the weather held. Rosanne Mapp posted information on the Facebook page and thanked those who participated. Ms. Mapp moved to approach DPW about managing Clean Up day next year, Michael Pineo seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Dick Maki moved to send thank you notes to the Garden Club and Laura Johnson Ricci for all the hard work they contributed above and beyond. Rosanne Mapp seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Paul Cathcart moved to form a subcommittee to look at the whole town-wide clean up issue; Mike Pineo seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Cathcart, Mr. Pineo and Jim Patacchiola volunteered for the committee.

MRPC Permitting Guide. Prior to the meeting, Patty Page circulated a draft of the Guide for review and comment. She was unable to attend the meeting, however, so discussion was tabled until the May 23rd meeting so Ms. Page can be there.

Fidelity Bank Presentation. Richard Maki attended the presentation on the Region's Economic Forecast, held April 8th at Great Wolf Lodge, Fitchburg. He found it to be an excellent presentation and distributed his summary notes to the members. Michael Pineo moved and Rosanne Mapp seconded the motion to ratify the expense (\$35) for Dick Maki to attend the presentation. Unanimous approval.

Commercial and Industrial Properties. Keith Cordial reported that some properties discussed at our last meeting have been withdrawn. There was discussion of available properties, including Meola's and Woody's barbershop, and how to get the word out about available properties to the types of businesses that Sterling residents are interested in bringing into town.

DOT: Rt 12 & I 190. It looks like the State is going to do what we asked for.

Intersection of Rts. 140 & 62. \$250K is in the warrant for first year costs for the construction of a rotary at that intersection. Dick Maki has sent a letter to Anne Gobi, Meghan Kilcoyne and Kim Ferguson about assistance with next year's costs. For this to move forward, it is critical that the Town approve the \$250K at this year's Town Meeting.

Town Center Renovation and Hudson Presentation. Paul Cathcard and Rosanne Mapp have been working on questions to ask at the meeting in Hudson. Emma's Cafe has had their soft opening, and Rosanne Mapp is working with them on the ribbon cutting ceremony which will hopefully include our State officials. The first phase of the Town Renovation Project (burying the wires, new lamp posts) should have begun on 4/25, but more information is needed from the Town. It is not clear when the new start date will be.

Town Beach Renovation. Re: the Boat Ramp – Dick Maki met with people from the Recreation Committee and spoke with several others who don't think that Equal Access to the boat ramp/lake is a good idea, nor do they think that the Town is ready for it. (Were the state to take on the project, equal access to anyone from Sterling and other communities would be required). But we do need to make some improvements to the boat ramp in order to at least minimize erosion. The Conservation Commission should be consulted. Mr. Maki has contacted landscape engineers and is waiting to hear from them on beach improvement and beautification. There was discussion of revenue for these projects, ranging from raising fees for out-of-towners who use the lake to holding off on the boat ramp and using the \$100K we have to improve the site.

Business Recognition and Awards Program. Keith Cordial presented the plaque for Hendrickson Advertising, and members agreed that it was beautiful but discussed whether or not it was hard to read. Rafferty Aluminum will be the next honoree.

Next meeting will be May 23rd.. Motion to adjourn made by James Pattacchiola; seconded by Rosanne Mapp and motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:55.

Submitted by Melissa Chalmers, recorder