

Economic Development Committee

October 31, 2022

Butterick Building, 1 Park Street, Room 205

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chair James Patacchiola

Present: James Patacchiola, Richard Maki, Maureen Cranson, Rosanne Mapp (via ZOOM)

Also Present: William Caldwell (Town Administrator), Stephen Wallace (new Town Planner), Patty Erickson (new owner of White Cottage Flowers)

Minutes of the August and September meetings were approved.

Stephen Wallace was introduced. Committee members brought him up to speed on the work of the EDC, and he shared information about what he's worked on in Westminster. He shared a copy of the Westminster Promotional Brochure which includes a Retail and Commercial Business Map. He said that he'll talk to the Chamber of Commerce and State Tourism Bureau re: funding to create a brochure/map for Sterling. He'll also talk to printers and web designers for estimates. He will report back to the EDC in November. He wants to assign Committee members to visit local shops, farms that are open to the public, etc. to gather information for the brochure. Finally, he advised the Committee to work on one project at a time, complete it, then move on to another.

James Patacchiola suggested taking a vote to **recommend Mark Stoeve to the Select Board as a new member** of the EDC. Maureen Cranson made the motion, Richard Maki seconded. All present voted "aye."

Bill Caldwell said that all the funding is available for pre-construction work downtown, including the Verizon and Comcast components.

Maureen Cranson suggested **attending ZBA meetings** to stay in touch with what they're doing and offer support when we can.

Patty Erickson announced that November 11 - 13 will be the grand opening for her White Cottage Flowers shop at 227 Leominster Rd. There will be light refreshments and a holiday wreath giveaway. Besides fresh flowers and silk flowers, the shop will carry a variety of gifts and home decor items.

Town Beach. A new camera is in place to, hopefully, cut down on vandalism at the beach. The Police Dept., Rec. Dept., and Light Dept. are all involved in improving security at the beach.

James Patacchiola moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45, Dick Maki seconded. All present voted aye. Next meeting will be held on **November 28th**.

Submitted by Melissa Chalmers, recoder