

## **Economic Development Committee**

**August 22, 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, Paul Cathcart, Maureen Cranson, Rosanne Mapp

**Also Present:** William Caldwell (Town Administrator), Patty Page (Building Dept.), Barbara Roberti (Conservation Commission, East Lake Wauschacum Association) and Lisa Kloczkowski (East Lake Wauschacum Association)

Minutes of the June and July meetings were approved.

**Town Center Renovaton.** The draft policy on Local Tax Increment Financing (TIF) was distributed, and Bill Caldwell reminded members that this financing program, overseen by the Town Administrator and Select Board, must be approved by Town Meeting.

Summer has slowed everything down; some of the downtown work is on hold until a design/architectural rendering is available. There was a discussion of the grass downtown which needs attention. A DPW staff shortage is part of the problem. Paul Cathcart will call Mass DOT to discuss their responsibility re: grass maintenance.

**The new Town Planner** will be appointed August 31st and start the end of October.

**MRPC Permitting Guide** (electronic version) will be available online, probably on the Building Dept. page and the Select Board page. Thank you, Patty Page, for all of your work. We will need a few paper copies; Dick Maki moved to approve printing 50 copies. Jim Patacchiola seconded. Unanimous approval.

**Town Beach.** The landscape engineer should have the Plan ready this week (week of August 22nd). It will involve removing some trees for safety reasons. The Conservation Commission and the landscape engineer agree that about 10 trees will have to come down; these are mostly pines. Barbara Roberti pointed out that drainage remains a concern. Discussion followed. Of the \$100,000 available to date for beach renovation, about half has been spent on ADA material (bathroom facilities and carpeting) and the landscape engineering plan. The remaining \$50,000 can be used for tree removal and drainage. The Lake Association is prepared to give \$20,000

toward correcting the drainage problem. Because drainage will be very expensive, a letter will be sent to our state senator and representatives about money. It could be signed by the Select Board, the Conservation Commission, EDC, and the Lake Association.

There was a discussion about beach vandalism, especially to the Porta Potties. Lights/cameras could help both deter the vandalism and help identify the vandals. People have to know that there will be consequences.

The EDC needs 2 more members, including someone who can take over the **Business Recognition and Awards Program** formerly managed by Keith Cordial.

**Buy Local Program.** Rosanne Mapp has been talking to people to gauge their interest. So far, there is not a lot of interest in a Buy Local program.

The Town of Sterling belongs to the North Central Chamber of Commerce which publicizes local businesses who are members, as well as local events. The Chamber also provides contacts with other businesses. Someone from the EDC or the Town should attend their meetings.

**Select Board Updates.** Matt Marrow will be leaving as Conservation Commissioner.

**Next meeting will be September 26.** Motion to adjourn made by Rosanne Mapp and seconded by Paul Cathcart; motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:20.

Submitted by Melissa Chalmers, recorder