

Economic Development Committee, Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 28, 2014

Committee Attendees: Jeff Donaldson, Brian Patacchiola, Jim Patacchiola (via teleconference), Lindsay Lucarelli, Paul Rehrig, Brian Kindorf

Minutes taken by Paul Rehrig

- I. Called to order, B. Patacchiola : 6:35pm
- II. Review of Zoning Map and Discussion with Jason Stanton, GISP (GIS/IT Director, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission) and John Hume (MRPC)
MRPC can provide zoning maps, current except a few pending corrections.
Mr. Donaldson asked how can we smooth out districts, overlay is an option
EDC needs to educate and get buy in well in advance of Town Meeting.
How to identify special permits that counter current zone, but show precedence of shift towards a new category. Do we restrict scope to Rte 12 only or consider other hot spots as well.
We need matrix of what can and can not do in each zone
Decide how we can keep Planning Board in the loop?
MRPC may be able to assist in access to funding that could be used in the Zoning effort. As a reminder, Sterling also gets 8h GIS free.
- III. Sterling Trails initiative
Sherrie Beam can answer questions (from MRPC)
Be aware of positive aspects of Sterling lifestyle plus some business opportunities
- IV. Miscellaneous updates
Mrs. Lucarelli began discussion on what does Sterling want to be in 5 years? Sterling does have a Master Plan from 1962, but it needs to be updated. Town Administrator Jeff Ritter is working on updating it.
Mr. B. Patacchiola encouraged EDC to review master plan and the Open Space masterplan.

A discussion about what deliverables should be the goal of the EDC. Decided to begin with a "How to do business in Sterling". Start with getting an editable version of Westford's doc (through conversion or otherwise). Ask Town Clear (Dawn M.) for town demographic data.
- V. Review and approval of minutes
 - a. L. Lucarelli motioned, P. Rehrig 2nd, all approved.
- VI. Adjourned – ~8:15pm (estimated) (B. Patacchiola motioned, J. Donaldson 2nd, All approved)

