

## **Economic Development Committee**

**November 22, 2021**

Butterick Building, 1 Park Street, Room 205

9:00 am

### **Minutes**

The meeting started at 9:00 am with a call from Meagan Donoghue, MRPC, to discuss the **Business Permitting Guide**. She is new to her position, so the call was primarily a “meet and greet” to get her acquainted with our project. She can check MRPC files for more information, and contact Patty Page who is the key person to talk to about Sterling’s Permitting Guide.

**Present:** Chair James Patacchiola, Michael Pineo, Rosanne Mapp, Maureen Cranson

**Absent:** Keith Cordial, Richard Maki, Paul Cathcart

**Other Attendees:** Meagan Donoghue, MRPC (attended remotely)

**Past Meeting Minutes:** Michael Pineo moved to approve the minutes of the 10/25/21 meeting. Chair Patacchiola seconded. Motion carried, minutes were approved.

**Town Planner Update:** We are working to recover emails that were erased by the former Town Planner. This is time consuming and, at present, we don’t know where we are with regard to grants, moving forward, etc. We are considering hiring a new Town Planner who could, potentially, be part time and shared with another town.

**Town Administrator Update:** Fred Aponte and Kama Jayne continue to perform Administrative duties while the Town considers putting together a search committee and whether or not to hire an interim Town Administrator.

**Community Branding and Wayfinding Meeting with Select Board :** Mark Faverman gave a verbal presentation at the last Select Board Meeting. His computer was not working properly so no visual presentation was available and his information was not as helpful as had been hoped.

**Sterling Inn -- Present Status and Disposition:** The Inn will be auctioned at noon on December 10th at the Inn. There is no reserve. Information will be posted on the website.

**Town Center Revitalization:** World Tech gave a presentation of their plan for Sterling Center at the last Select Board Meeting. At today’s EDC meeting, members discussed how much of that plan is redundant, since Weston & Sampson did initial drawings for Sterling in 2007 and more work in 2019. Some of the work that World Tech discussed has already been done by Weston & Samson. We want to know if the work done by Weston & Sampson can be merged with World Tech’s plan and if this can save us some money.

The SMLD light poles project will begin this Spring.

**Town Beach Drainage Update:** We have a design ready and Kim Fergusen's office reported that \$100,000 in federal funds has been voted on and is awaiting the Governor's signature. This money is for drainage only.

**Bridge Vandalism Prevention:** The camera and lighting system seems to be working well, and no new damage has occurred

**Mass DOT Rt-12 Median Between the Traffic Circles:** We hope to re-seed with low-maintenance grass which the State will mow twice a year.

**Business Recognition and Awards Program Next Steps:** Keith Cordial will prepare a press release to announce the winning business(es). It was suggested that there be a ribbon-cutting ceremony along with a welcome letter for new businesses.

The next EDC meeting is scheduled for **December 27th at 9:00 am in Room 205 of the Butterick Building.**

Michael Pineo moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50. James Patacchiola seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Chalmers, Recorder.