

Economic Development Committee
January 24, 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, Maureen Cranson, Rosanne Mapp, Richard Maki, Keith Cordial, Paul Cathcart (via ZOOM)

Other Attendees: Patty Page (Building Dept., Planning Board)

Past Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the December 27, 2021 meeting were approved

Sterling Clean Up Day 2022: Rosanne Mapp will coordinate Clean Up Day which will be held on Saturday, April 16. Maureen Cranson moved that \$500 be used to cover the event, Paul Cathcart seconded, all present voted "aye" and the motion carried. This money will cover advertising and changing the date on the existing signs, which are currently in storage.

EDC Communications: Maureen Cranson circulated a list of Committee achievements and current initiatives, which Sterling residents should be made aware of since many are unfamiliar with the work of the Committee. To help get the word out, these activities should be included in the Annual Town Report (currently being compiled). Also, Patty Page is working on the EDC's web page where the Committee's news/activities can be reported and updated. And Ms. Cranson will talk to Town Clerk Kathy Farrell re: our relationship with the Chamber of Commerce.

Meeting with other area EDCs: Rosanne Mapp suggested that Committee representatives meet with the Hudson, MA EDC to discuss their successful downtown revitalization, the obstacles they encountered, and how they overcame those obstacles. Maureen Cranson will contact the EDC in Hudson; Jim Patacchiola, Paul Cathcart and Rosanne Mapp would like to meet with them as representatives of the Sterling EDC.

Budget FY'23: Richard Maki moved to approve \$16,000 for the annual 2023 budget. Jim Patacchiola seconded All present voted "aye" and the motion carried.

MRPC Permitting Guide: Patty Page met with Meagan Donoghue at MRPC. A draft Guide should be available by end of February.

Town Administrator Position Update: Resumes will continue to be accepted through January 31st.

Sterling Business Development: The Committee discussed keeping track of what industrial, retail and commercial real estate is available for when the EDC is approached by people

considering opening a business in Sterling. Keith Cordial has access to this information and will receive alerts when properties become available.

Town Center Revitalization: A meeting is scheduled at SMLD for early February re: burying the power lines, removing the poles, and constructing new lamp posts. This work should begin in April, COVID permitting.

We have grant money for Weston & Sampson to construct the sidewalk from Maple Street to Sholan Terrace. This will give people easier walking access to downtown. We have some funding for the downtown sidewalks, and meetings with Hudson and Clinton EDCs might yield information on obtaining more money for those sidewalks. Hudson and Clinton have recently completed successful downtown renovations.

Town Beach Update: \$100,000 of state funds appear to be available for beach improvements. Richard Maki submitted the results of a "Survey of Needed Town Beach Improvements." These include constructing ADA compliant bathrooms, improving quality of beach sand, paved pathways linking the parking lot to the beach. He also distributed a drawing of proposed improvements. He noted that proper walkways can help with the erosion and run-off problem while money to fix the drainage problem will hopefully be available next year. ADA money will become available this summer as well.

Business Recognition and Awards Program: There will be a ribbon cutting and/or a welcome plaque for Emma's Cafe in April. Rafferty's (lumber, construction materials) is being considered for a recognition award. This would recognize a business outside of the Town Center and a different kind of business than just commercial.

Select Board Meeting Update: The Town Planner is on the Board's agenda for February.

Maureen Cranson moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim Patacchiola seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 10:50.

The next EDC meeting is scheduled for **February 28th at 9:00 am in Room 205 of the Butterick Building.**

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Chalmers, Recorder.