

Economic Development Committee

March 27, 2023

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, Paul Cathcart, Richard Maki, Rosanne Mapp, Mark Stoever, Maureen Cranson, Michael Pineo

Also Present: William Caldwell (Town Administrator), Stephen Wallace (Town Planner), Carl Corrinne (Planning Board), Brian Kindorf

Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Stephen Wallace presented information on **Zoning and Use Tables**, and discussed land use that is allowed either “By Right” or “Special Permit.” The Sterling Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) grant/deny Special Permits. Mr Wallace hopes to apply for grant money to re-write the Performance District By-Law as well as Site Plan Regulations that can be applied to all non-residential uses. The current Site Plan Regs are very confusing. Mr, Wallace should know by the Fall if the money will be granted.

He proposes hosting a couple of public forums (one in the evening and one on a Saturday morning) to discuss what Sterling allows for commercial and individual uses and why economic development is important.. Ultimately, he would also like to transfer all commercial and industrial special permitting authority to the Planning Board in order to simplify the whole process.

Retail/commercial map and brochure. Materials will be delivered to Monty Tech on April 3rd so that they can get going on the design for the map/brochure. We don't yet know whether they can get it all done by the end of the current school year or if it will carry over to the Fall semester. The Chamber of Commerce will cover half of the printing cost when the brochure is ready.

EDC website. There was discussion re: what the Committee wants on the website and how to make it easier to access. Committee members were asked to email their thoughts on the website to Rosanne Mapp.

Sterling Clean Up Day, April 22nd, 10 am - 2 pm. There will be no parking in front of the First Church that day because of a funeral. Things seem to be falling into place for a successful Clean Up Day. A half-page ad will be printed in the newspaper. Dick Maki has re-done the maps and is

distributing posters. He has arranged for the electronic sign to be used to remind people of the event and he has ensured that the 1835 building will be open for bathroom access for the volunteers. Meadowbrook Farms will supply donuts for the volunteers. Gloves and yellow bags will be provided and bags will be picked up on the street by DPW. David Smith from the Select Board will take over the coordination of next year's Clean Up Day.

Town Center Renovation: Town Administrator Update. Bill Caldwell reported being on schedule with Weston and Sampson. Discussion followed on infrastructure, previous plans, communication, etc.

Town Beach Renovation. Conservation Commission has approved the final plan for the entire project. Since the Recreation Dept. uses the beach during the 3 months of summer, significant construction can only take place in the Spring and Fall.

Select Board Update. The Select Board is working on the Budget, and Maureen Cranson announced that someone is needed to run for the Planning Board seat. The Town election will be held on May 8th.

Jim Patacchiola moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:42. This was seconded by Mark Stoever and the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 24th, 9 am.

Submitted by Melissa Chalmers, recorder