

## **Economic Development Committee**

**April 24, 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 Stoeve, Maureen Cranson

**Also Present:** Stephen Wallace (Town Planner), David Gibbs (Historical Commission), Kirsten Newman (candidate for Select Board)

**Minutes of the March meeting were approved.**

**EDC Website.** Discussed: possibility of a Facebook page for the Town; re-design of the Town's current website to make it easier for people to negotiate and find EDC information; and importance of communicating and updating EDC news, property listings, etc. on the website,

Rosanne Mapp discussed her **Meetinghouse News column** and the importance of also using the Town's website to update people on EDC issues. She discussed the need to improve and expand upon ways to get information to people.

**Town Planner Update.** Stephen Wallace is still waiting for the map/brochure proof from Monty Tech. Once received, he will distribute copies to members of the Committee for review and comment.

Mr. Wallace will attend the upcoming Planning Board meeting to discuss the Zoning Bylaw. He shared with the Committee his proposal for overhauling the Bylaw. He intends to apply for a grant for money to hire a consultant to help with zoning issues.

**Town Center Renovation.** David Gibbs of the Historical Commission discussed Sterling's historic buildings and historic district, and stated that while private individuals can do what they want to the historic buildings they own, municipal funds cannot be used to change the facades of historic buildings on the National Register. Paul Cathcart responded that public funds were never intended to be used in the proposed storefront renovations. Rather, the EDC is interested in persuading building owners to invest in renovating their downtown commercial buildings.

Mr. Gibbs stated that Sterling has had major losses of historic buildings over the years, and Chairman Jim Patacchiola proposed working with the Historical Commission to preserve Sterling's history and character.

**Clean Up Day** was a great success! Richard Maki has developed guidelines for those who will take over the event next year. During the discussion of ways to prevent trash dumping and vandalism in town, including at the beach, it was suggested that signs be put saying that the area is being monitored. It was also suggested that motion sensor lights be installed. Maureen Cranson was asked to bring this up at a Select Board meeting.

**Town Beach.** A Forester is needed to take down some damaged and aging trees. It looks like there may be additional funds to finish the beach work (drainage and tree work). Boat ramp was discussed.

**Select Board Update.** The warrant is out. Town meeting is May 1st.

Maureen Cranson moved to **adjourn the meeting at 10:25**. This was seconded by Rosanne Mapp and the meeting was adjourned.

**Next meeting is scheduled for May 22nd, 9 am.**

Submitted by Melissa Chalmers, recorder