

Economic Development Committee

October 23, 2023

Butterick Building, 1 Park Street, Sterling, Room 205

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chair Jim Patacchiola.

Present: Jim Patacchiola, Paul Cathcart, Mark Stoeve, Dick Maki, Brian Kindorf, Maureen Cranson

Also Present: Stephen Wallace (Town Planner)

Approved: Minutes of the September, 2023 meeting

Future meetings. The next meeting will be held on November 20th. There will be no meeting in December; meetings will resume on January 22, 2024

Treasurer's Report. Dick Maki distributed copies of the Budget Summary for FY'24. He will get more information on the \$324.16 expenditure on line 16. Dick moved to approve the \$30 Chamber of Commerce expenditure on line 14. Jim Patacchiola seconded; approval was unanimous.

Town Planner Update. Stephen Wallace's article on The Importance of Economic Development was printed in the October Meetinghouse News. The article discussed the Public Forums that will be convened in February - March. These will be held on an evening and a Saturday at the old Town Hall. The Committee discussed what these Forums will address.

Sterling did not receive a grant to hire a zoning consultant to help re-write the Site Plan Regulations, so Stephen will prepare these regulations for all economic development. He will need some help. There is unused Planning Department salary money that can be used to hire someone.

Stephen got an \$8,000 price quote from Add-a-Sign for an entry sign at the West Boylston line. He will get quotes from other sign companies.

Sterling Inn is back on the market.

Town Center Renovation. Renovations are in a "holding pattern." Something concrete is needed that the Main Street landlords can see. Appletown Market is up for sale. Paul Cathcart will contact Tony Molina, the agent for Appletown, for more information.

Town Beach. There is a new section of crushed rock, 4 feet deep, at the end of Hall Ave. This will absorb stormwater from Hall Ave and help with the erosion problem. There is a ditch on the margin of the parking lot that drains water from Swett Hill. Next step will be to remove 10-15 trees for safety and/or cosmetic purposes. The local contractor is not interested so a new contractor is being sought.

Budget Discussion. Committee has \$16,000 to use by the end of the fiscal year.

Grant money is mostly going to Boston and Western Mass. The Committee needs to be proactive and find other sources of funds. The Committee discussed what the money is needed for:

- \$5,000 for the Performance Zone (this should be the main focus)
- \$5,000 for downtown
- \$10,000 for signs.

Other expenses:

- \$1,500 for Clean Up Day
- \$2,000 for Celebrate Sterling
- \$2,500 for Favermann (signs)

Dick Maki will draft a budget.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 23rd at 9 am.

Brian Kindorf made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Maureen Cranson. Unanimous approval. Meeting was adjourned at 10:40.

Submitted by Melissa Chalmers, recorder