

Economic Development Committee

21 Mar 2024 – Meeting Minutes

Time: 12:00pm – 1:07pm

Attendees:

Glenn Brown

John Drohan

Alex Ferro

Chinmaya Gogineni

Patrick Hafford

Viktoria Sadlovska Anshu

David Thorn

Also in attendance:

Melanie Hamblen: EDC Coordinator

Discussion

Meeting opened with Glenn and David

Accepted February meeting minutes motion to accept

Confirmed next meeting was 25 Apr 2024 @1200

Meeting opened with Melanie's report: She has continued to send out business welcome letters to businesses as well as connecting with local businesses.

Discussed her business networking meeting with Cheryl Cohen (Mosaics) and reminded of the next meeting in 23 Apr at Town Hall.

She talked about the Highland Farm sale potential and how the initial bidder was rejected (Bean Family). Discussion amongst the board that the asking price was simply too high for an Agricultural restriction. We agreed it was a fantastic potential for possibly an outdoor restaurant or brewery but time will tell.

She discussed that Channel 25 was coming back to Holliston on 21 June and were potentially looking for people to interview in the Blair Square area. EDC agreed that we should have representation there.

We discussed possibly doing a public service announcement through Holliston Hub (HCAT) in an effort to promote business awareness of events as well as EDC involvement in promoting businesses.

Discussion of sending congratulation cards to people who were selected by MYFM101.3 "Quest for the Best" winners from Holliston. We agreed it could be a good idea and possibly be a habit that the committee got into in an effort to further recognize businesses.

Next topic of discussion was the Holliston Industrial Park list initial analysis completed by Glenn. Glenn made good points about the committee's understanding of the industrial park being paramount to our activities. This led to the discussion on the importance of educating the general public on what the Industrial Parks were, their value and the potential of them being even more of a value to the overall community. There has been a lot of interest in the 555 Hoppingbrook but people are ignorant of the much of the other parks. We discussed Pope Industrial park and how it is for sale and how the EDC could help to promote that being purchased by a buyer who will develop it into something that will greatly benefit the town.

Committee agreed to form subcommittee led by Glenn to do an educational piece on the industrial parks focusing on current occupation and more importantly availability for new business as that is a primary function of the EDC. The piece would highlight the value of commercial business in town that most people don't understand. We would discuss this next meeting.

In conjunction with that the committee discussed putting together a "playbook" that Melanie would have to provide to potential businesses for both the industrial park as well as the retail locations. The playbook would be a collection of easily organized information as well as highlighting selling points of why businesses should come to Holliston. In addition this would also demonstrate the town's active involvement in the development and improvement of the business community.

John agreed to lead this subcommittee in putting that together working in conjunction with both Melanie as well as the town administrator.

Meeting adjourned at 1:07pm