

Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2016

Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in Room 105 of Town Hall.

In Attendance: Chairman Barbieri, Robert Warburton, Susan Russo, and Lisa Zais. Also present were Town Administrator Jeff Ritter, Technology Director Chris Meo and Economic Development Director/Town Planner Karen Sherman. Kate Lamontagne and David Thorn were absent.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mrs. Russo, seconded by Mr. Warburton, the draft minutes of November 3, 2016 were approved as written.

Downtown Development: The Chairman noted that after the November discussion on the potential tax taking of #9 Green Street, he had sent the Board of Selectmen correspondence dated November 10th regarding the Committee's expressed preference to take the site for municipal purposes. Paul Saulnier, PE of Civilized Solutions joined the group for a continued discussion of #9 Green Street and other downtown issues. Mr. Saulnier indicated that he had worked with the current owner of 9 Green as well as several perspective buyers on the Green Street site, including design of a replacement septic tight-tank system. He noted that the soils could be contaminated but that no testing has been done that he is aware of. Marketing information from Metrowest Commercial Real Estate indicates potential assemblage with the adjacent Superette/Odd Fellows Building at #777-785 Washington and indicates the seller's willingness to discount the price if contamination is found. Board of Health files indicate an existing sub-slab barrier to mitigate indoor air quality at the 12,928 s.f. two story building.

Mr. Saulnier also noted that he had re-designed the system at the Superette/Odd Fellows building but had not filed it with the Board of Health for approval. He noted that the building's septic usage could vary substantially without the hair salon in the loading calculation. Some discussion of the limits the state Title V Regulations followed. The Chairman noted that he had printed a list of Towns without sewers that could be shared and tapped for approaches to downtown development and re-development.

Community Video and Website Metrics: Chris Meo noted that Penta Marketing had provided an updated set of metrics for the period October 19 to November 29. Facebook has provided the most social network referrals. There have been 195 referral sessions and 65 direct sessions on the website with 190 sessions via desktop versus 76 mobile sessions. 124 sessions were characterized as new and 142 as returning. Most pageviews have been of the site's home page. No additional Business Information Questionnaires have been received.

Committee Next Steps: The Chairman noted that he had sent a message to Jon Delli Priscoli, developer of Hopping Brook Business Park and he hopes that Mr. Priscoli will attend a future meeting. He also distributed several printed business and non-profit community guides (Towns of Framingham, Southborough and Hopkinton) and asked if the members had an interest in producing a like document. Ms. Sherman noted that Southborough and Westborough guides had been developed by a company that solicits advertising and works exclusively with communities.

**Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2016**

All were in agreement that the printed media is a good tool and further information should be solicited from Global Design and Publishing, LLC.

General Business:

Mrs. Russo noted that the Town of Ashland has recently enacted a ban on recreational marijuana dispensaries. She also suggested a follow-up with the Milford Chamber of Commerce for potential membership.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m. on a motion made a duly seconded. The next meeting was scheduled for January 5th.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Sherman
Economic Development Director/Town Planner