

Holliston Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2017

Present: Chairman Peter Barbieri, Susan Russo, Lisa Zais and Matthew Coletti. David Thorn was absent. Also present was Town Administrator Jeff Ritter.

Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room (#105) of Town Hall.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mr. Coletti, seconded by Mrs. Russo, with all in favor, the members approved the minutes of October 2017 as amended through discussion.

General Business:

Downtown and Rail Trail Issues

Mr. Ritter provided an update of the Downtown Traffic Signal Project, noting work is wrapping up until spring and conduit has been installed. Some discussion of Blair Square issues continued with a focus on efforts to tie the Rail Trail into the Downtown area. The potential for work with Keefe Tech. was raised.

Community and Business Guide

Ms. Sherman gave an update on the Community and Business Guide development, noting that an additional call for ads could boost the project.

Industrial Parks

The Chairman noted that Griffin Electric finished their expansion and may be planning another. Mr. Ritter noted that Brighton Health is working on their acquisition and development of a site within Hopping Brook. A 150,000 s.f. buildout is anticipated. A Host Agreement has been negotiated with the Board of Selectmen. Some discussion of changes in medical and recreational statutes and administration followed (DPH to Cannabis Commission).

General Business

The Chairman noted that the Selectmen and Board of Assessors were holding a tax classification hearing on the 20th. A single tax rate recommendation is expected with approximately a 7% increase in residential values. He noted that approximately 10% of the levy is derived from industrial and commercial properties. Mrs. Zais made a motion to support the single rate. Mr. Coletti seconded with the Chairman abstaining.

Mr. Coletti suggested exploration of a "Buy Local" policy for the Town within its procurement policies. Mr. Ritter agreed that he and Ms. Sherman would look into it.

Programs with the Metrowest Chamber of Commerce (annual dinner 11/9), Business Expo at Patriot Place and 495 Metrowest Partnership (Economic Pulse on 11/17) were discussed with open invitations.

Updates to the EDC website were noted based on the results of Town Meeting.

Guidelines for the FY19 Annual Budget are expected for either the December or January meeting.

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Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m. on a motion made and duly seconded with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sherman
Town Planner