

Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2016

Present: Chairman Peter Barbieri, Kate Lamontagne, Susan Russo, David Thorn, and Bob Warburton. Lisa Zais was absent. Also present were Town Administrator Jeff Ritter, Technology Director Chris Meo, and Town Planner Karen Sherman.

Call to Order: The Chairman called the regular meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in Room 105 of Town Hall, 703 Washington Street.

- 1) **FY17 Budget Request** – The Chairman noted that he had no new information on the budget request.
- 2) **Website Development** ó The Chairman noted that the contract with Penta Communications of Westborough had been signed. Mr. Ritter noted that the previous discussion about a potential Reserve Fund Transfer had been nixed and instead, the Board of Selectmen will transfer the amount of \$4,250 from another available account after May 1st. Members agreed to continue to review other websites and provide ideas for use in Holliston's site development as well as identify images of Holliston to include in the website (e.g. Town Hall). Rich Powers of Henry Studios and The Holliston Reporter staff will be contacted about availability of photos and/or photographers.
- 3) **Community Video** ó Jeff Ritter provided an update on the video, noting that HCAT staffer Bruce Gilfoy has provided a storyboard for a viewing. Members offered some comments about the concept, including the need for additional focus on the local business environment. The Chairman noted that he had read that Holliston is among communities rated as "bio ready". This designation will be investigated. It was noted that Hopping Brook Park was noticeably missing from the graphics as was information on the school department and recent community designations and accolades such as Green Community and America in Bloom winner. A 4/25 follow-up meeting with Mr. Gilfoy is planned. Focus will be on setting up interviewees and refining a narrative. Timeline for completion is slated for July 1st.
- 4) **Zoning By-Law Amendments** ó At the Chairman's request, the members revisited discussion on the proposed medical marijuana regulation. After some discussion, Mr. Warburton made a motion to support the article. Ms. Russo seconded with the vote as follows: 3 ó aye and 2 ó abstain (Mr. Thorn abstained from the discussions as he is a member of the Planning Board. Mr. Barbieri abstained from the discussion as he has been asked to represent one of the non-profits hoping to locate in the community.
- 5) **Minutes of March 3, 2016** ó The draft minutes were approved as written on a motion by Susan Russo, seconded by Peter Barbieri with the vote as follows: 4 ó aye and 1 ó abstain (Mr. Warburton was absent).
- 6) **General Business** ó The Chairman noted that the members should consider taking a position on the proposed downtown traffic signals. Some discussion of the preferred alternative McMahon Assoc. design followed, with members noting the both improved safety and parking retention are paramount. The Suggestions were made to investigate rental of private lots such and potential land takings for creation of a municipal lot. Ms. Russo made a motion to support the funding proposal and encouraged efforts to preserve parking. Mr. Warburton seconded with all in favor. Ms. Sherman noted that a technical assistance grant has been awarded to the Town by the Mass. Downtown Initiative for streetscape design work in the downtown. Ms. Russo and Ms. Lamontagne agreed to represent the committee given they are both downtown business owners. Mr. Thorn is participating as a member of the Planning Board.

Adjournment ó On motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m. The next meeting was set for May 5, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Sherman, Town Planner