

Economic Development Committee

18 January 2024 – Meeting Minutes

Time: 12:00pm – 1:10 pm

Attendees:

John Drohan

Alex Ferro

Chinmaya Gogineni

Patrick Hafford

Viktoria Sadlovska Anshu

David Thorn

Also in attendance:

Melanie Hamblen: EDC Coordinator

Discussion

Meeting opened with Viktoria opening and Chinmaya seconding

Accepted December meeting minutes motion to accept by Chinmaya and seconded by Alex.

Confirmed next meeting was 15 Feb 2024 @1200

First topic of discussion was Melanie giving her EDC coordinator update. She updated the group about the 799 Washington street discussion at the Select Board along with her briefing that she made to the board. Had meetings with Geoff Zeamer, Warner Gossels who are both interested in the work that the EDC is doing to increase the ability for businesses to succeed in Holliston. She represented the town in the 495 Partnership organization and feels that that will be time well spent and recognizes the value in that group.

She reviewed Franklin's Facebook "business only" page that highlights businesses in Franklin and wants to set this up for Holliston. We discussed the EDC's webpage and we all agreed that if we had pertinent information on the EDC page of the town website that could achieve what we want to accomplish and we are going to vote to either keep or delete the EDC website in an effort to streamline the effort.

The group agreed that the importance of communication to the business community is paramount to what the EDC is doing right now and focusing our efforts on social media and the ECC page on the town website may be the best use of our resources.

Melanie discussed her meet and greet program where she had an upcoming meet and greet at the Barn Swallow on 22 Jan.

We discussed the business outreach program and Melanie has introduction letters to pass out to business owners as part of the outreach program. We discussed using Constant Contact as well to reach out to businesses. In a follow up John said he would send out the breakdown of the EDC members supporting the business outreach program.

We then discussed the 799 Washington street discussion and agreed to deliberate more at the next meeting. The group agreed that our position for the Select Board and the Finance Committee was that the EDC supported the purchase of 799 Washington street by the town so long as it was financially feasible agreed to by the finance committee and the select board. The EDC supports potentially using the property as a community center as outlined in Melanie's presentation if that was what the town agreed upon. The EDC commented that if there was another use that the town identified that they would potentially support that as well so long as it complimented the overall advance of the business community in Holliston either directly or indirectly.

Chinmaya commented that the EDC did not want to get into a bidding war and felt strongly about purchasing the property at an agreeable price point.

As mentioned the group agreed to discuss the 799 usage in more detail at the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.