

Holliston Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2019

Present: Chairman Peter Barbieri, Susan Russo, Matt Coletti, David Thorn, and Lisa Zais. 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. Thorn, seconded by Mr. Barbieri, with Mrs. Russo abstaining, the members approved the minutes of December 12, 2018 as drafted.

General Business:

1. **Business Updates:** Brian Rossini of BDR Automotive on Washington Street was present and noted that he had pursued improvements to the former Gulf Station at 799 Washington Street and expressed frustration with the owner's story and his intentions for the site. Ms. Sherman was requested to send a letter with zoning information and application to prompt action.
2. **Holliston Business Association:** Rich Powers, Co-President of the HBA was present to discuss potential partnerships with the Committee. Identification of and outreach to new businesses is a priority. Mr. Ritter provided a list of the local business licenses issued in the last several years. Mr. Powers noted that seminars and social networking events are their focus. Sharing notices of event and access to information was agreed upon. The Chairman noted the vacancies on the Committee and Mr. Powers agreed to reach out to his membership.
3. **Website Updates:** Technology Director Chris Meo was present to discuss options for the website and its maintenance. He provided a Powerpoint presentation and cost estimates for each option. Discussion followed. Mr. Coletti made a motion to pursue the second option of maintaining the external website for the next year. Mrs. Zais seconded with all in favor. Suggestions for new video and/or new business profiles were made, including the new restaurant in the former Jasper Hill location.
4. **Business Grant Program:** Mr. Coletti provided an updated draft of the text. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
5. **Downtown Updates:** The Chairman asked Mr. Ritter if there were any updates on 9 Green Street or the proposed Committee to deal with related issues. He stated there was no update. The Chairman provided the draft plan of parking and trail layout at the Casey's Crossing site, located between Central and Church Streets and noted that the Blair Square Committee is working on a Recreational Trails Grant with Ms. Sherman's assistance. Mr. Coletti suggested that the dumpster location is not attractive. Improvements include parking, fencing, lighting, warning signage and drainage. The Chairman asked the members for a letter of support for the project, noting deadlines. Mr. Coletti made a motion to support the application. Mrs. Zais seconded with all in favor.
6. **General Business:**
 - a. **Industrial Park Signage.** Some discussion about directory signage and the committee's interest in signage on public ways. Ms. Sherman noted that the sign in Hopping Brook Park is significantly outdated and has an unworking phone number as a resource. The Chairman suggested a letter to all park owners polling their interest and offering assistance.

**Holliston Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2019**

- b. FY20 Budget. Mrs. Russo made a motion to recommend the prepared budget meeting the 1.5% overall guideline for a total of \$12,683. Mr. Thorn seconded with all in favor.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. on a motion made and duly seconded with all in favor. The next meeting was scheduled for February 13, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sherman
Town Planner
Approved Feb. 13, 2019