

Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2016

Present: Chairman Peter Barbieri, Kate Lamontagne, Susan Russo, David Thorn, and Lisa Zais. Bob Warburton 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 informally attended the Finance Committee meeting on February 23rd and there were no real questions raised about the EDC proposal, except for the website development cost as an operating expenditure. He noted that they had no objection to a Reserve Fund Transfer through the Board of Selectmen in FY16.
- 2) **Website Development** ó After some discussion of the materials provided by Technology Director Chris Meo, Mr. Thorn made a motion to select the proposal submitted by Penta Communications of Westborough. Ms. Zais seconded with all in favor. Mr. Thorn also made a motion to request a Reserve Fund Transfer to the Finance Committee through the Board of Selectmen for the amount of \$4,250. Ms. Russo seconded with all in favor. Members agreed 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 staff will be providing a storyboard for a meeting in March and working on a timeline for completion.
- 4) **Medical Marijuana Facilities** ó The Chairman recused himself as he has been asked to represent one of the non-profits hoping to locate in the community. Town Administrator Jeff Ritter provided a Fact Sheet on a 25,000 s.f. cultivation facility proposed by Mayflower Medicinals, Inc. and discussed the Host Community Agreement recently signed by the Board of Selectmen, including estimated annual revenues, one-time fees and community impacts.
- 5) **Zoning By-Law Amendments** ó Ms. Sherman discussed 5 proposed zoning by-law amendments being considered by the Planning Board for the Annual Town Meeting in May. They include: definitions, schedule of uses, pre-existing non-conforming uses, structures and lots, medical marijuana, and senior residential dwelling developments. Mr. Thorn abstained from the discussions as he is a member of the Planning Board. Mr. Barbieri abstained from the discussion as noted above. After some discussion, no position was taken on medical marijuana. Ms. Zais made a motion to support the "housekeeping" articles, that is, definitions, uses, and non-conforming sections. Ms. Russo seconded with all in favor. Ms. Russo made a motion to support revisions to the Senior Residential section regarding thresholds. Ms. Zais seconded with all in favor.
- 6) **Minutes of February 4, 2016** ó The draft minutes were approved as written on a motion by David Thorn, seconded by Susan Russo.
- 7) **General Business** ó Mr. Thorn informed members that every Planning Board meeting will now begin with an open discussion of the proposed Downtown Corridor Plan at 7 p.m.

Adjournment ó On motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m. The next meeting was set for April 7, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved 4-7-16

Karen L. Sherman, Town Planner