

TOWN OF STOW
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the November 16, 2017 Economic Development and Industrial Commission Meeting

Members Present: Kevin Whalen, Andrew Bluestein, Bob Collings, Tom Farnsworth, Jen Gero, Jean-Claude Sureau

Absent: Serena Howlett

Kevin Whalen called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2017

Bob Collings moved to approve the minutes as written.

Tom Farnsworth Seconded.

VOTED: (5-0) In favor (Kevin Whalen, Bob Collings, Tom Farnsworth, Jen Gero, Jean-Claude Sureau- Yea, Andrew Bluestein Abstained).

Discussion and Approval of Letter to Planning Board regarding Sign Bylaw review

The EDIC reviewed a letter to the Planning Board regarding the Sign Bylaw, which included a list of recommendations derived from the core components of the bylaw, including its purpose and structure, enforcement and administration, on-site and off-site signage, temporary signage, and illumination.

Bob Collings moved to approve the Letter to the Planning Board regarding Assistance with Modifying the Sign Bylaw as amended.

Andrew Bluestein Seconded.

VOTED: (6-0) Unanimously in favor (Kevin Whalen, Andrew Bluestein, Bob Collings, Tom Farnsworth, Jen Gero, Jean-Claude Sureau- Yea).

Discussion of Grant Narrative for Business District Assessment and Market Analysis

The EDIC reviewed a draft narrative for a grant through the Massachusetts Downtown Initiative for a Business District Assessment and Market Analysis of Lower Village.

Stow Job Fair

Andrew Bluestein said that while Emma's Café has hired full-time help, Lower Village businesses such as Shaws, Aubuchon Hardware, Dunkin Donuts, and Red Ginger are still looking for additional help. Andrew Bluestein said that though the EDIC has not discussed it since the summer, a job fair is still needed.

The EDIC discussed competition for service jobs at a potential job fair, and agreed that the job fair should be open to employers Town-wide.

The EDIC discussed the success of a job fair, considering whether it is an effective way to find employees. Andrew Bluestein noted the expense of posting job openings through sites such as Idealist, and the amount of time needed to dedicate to reach out to specific networks.

The EDIC discussed the logistics of a job fair, agreeing that it could occur during an evening at the Pompositticut Community Center, and that it would be open to all Stow employers to participate in, inclusive of home-based businesses. The EDIC agreed that the job fair should be held after the winter holidays, perhaps in February. The EDIC discussed potential venues to advertise through, including bulletin boards in shops in the shopping plaza, the Stow Independent, and regional vocational schools. The EDIC agreed that participation from employers could be sought via email requests and through in person conversations, as applicable.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Oorthuys