

TOWN OF STOW
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the January 18, 2018 Economic Development and Industrial Commission Meeting

Members Present: Kevin Whalen, Tom Farnsworth, Bob Collings, Serena Howlett, Jen Gero

Absent: Andrew Bluestein, Jean-Claude Sureau

Kevin Whalen called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2017

Bob Collings moved to approve the minutes as written.

Tom Farnsworth Seconded.

VOTED: (5-0) Unanimously in favor (Kevin Whalen, Tom Farnsworth, Bob Collings, Serena Howlett, Jen Gero- Yea).

Annual Work Plan

The EDIC discussed a draft work plan, which includes the universe of projects that are ongoing, underway, or in discussion. Regarding outreach on business concerns, Jesse Steadman said that he reached out to Radant and Bose. Jen Gero volunteered to contact Crow Island Airpark.

Bob Collings noted that one of the biggest impediments to business in Stow is the lack of a public water supply. Jesse Steadman offered to have staff present on issues and opportunities regarding water infrastructure at a future meeting.

Regarding their work assembling recommendations on the Sign Bylaw, the EDIC agreed to have a Joint Boards meeting with the Planning Board. The EDIC agreed that the Planning Board's meeting on February 13 would be most convenient with their schedules. Jesse Steadman said that he would confirm with both boards.

The EDIC discussed inviting a representative from the Small Business Association to hold a workshop in Stow.

Regarding grant opportunities, Jen Gero suggested that staff look to the Alice Eaton fund, which provides grants to projects that link children and positive health outcomes.

The EDIC discussed the importance of an active network between business owners, and brainstormed ways of creating such a network, including Facebook, an email listserv, or a

quarterly newsletter. Bob Collings said that the network could introduce new businesses in town and profile existing entities.

Stow Job Fair

Bob Collings suggested that the EDIC partner with a firm to host the job fair. Bob Collings said that the EDIC could select a firm that connects job seekers with temporary, contract, or permanent employers. Serena Howlett noted that there is a company in Maynard the EDIC could reach out to.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Oorthuys