

TOWN OF STOW
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the January 24, 2019 Economic Development and Industrial Commission Meeting

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

Absent: Andrew Bluestein, Jean-Claude Sureau

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

Discussion of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of October 11, 2018

Bob Collings moved to approve the minutes as written.

Serena Howlett Seconded.

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

Public Input

None.

Debrief Lower Village Business District Assessment and Market Analysis Presentation

The EDIC discussed Peg Barringer's presentation of the final report at the Planning Board's meeting of December 11, 2018.

Jen Gero said she was surprised by the Trade Area analysis and sales leakage information, specifically the amount of money spent by Stow residents in restaurants in other Towns.

The EDIC discussed the link between the sales leakage and the lack of a public water supply in Lower Village, precluding opportunities for restaurants. Jim Salvie, Selectmen liaison to the EDIC, discussed the need to convince businesses in Lower Village that financially supporting a public water supply is economically feasible. Serena Howlett asked why the Town isn't proceeding with testing capacity or flow from the potential Heritage Lane site. Jim Salvie responded that a broader conversation is needed to come to alignment on how a well would be operated, which businesses would benefit, and how or whether the Town and businesses would share costs. Jesse Steadman noted that bringing a public water supply to Lower Village wouldn't necessitate the Town staffing a municipal water department. The EDIC discussed potential paths forward, including public/private partnerships. The EDIC agreed that many of the recommendations from the Business District Assessment and Market Analysis would require a change in the availability of water in Lower Village.

Discussion and Vote on Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

Jesse Steadman said the EDIC has \$1,390 in their account from FY2019. Last year, around \$700 was spent on the Job Fair held in April. The majority of those funds went toward the purchase of a reusable banner to advertise future job fairs. The draft budget shows a request of \$1,000.

Kevin Whalen moved to request \$1,000 for fiscal year 2020.

Tom Farnsworth seconded.

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

Sign Bylaw

Valerie Oorthuys provided the EDIC with potential revisions to the Sign Bylaw that take into consideration comments from the EDIC and Planning Board, sign bylaws from comparable towns, and recent Supreme Court legislation.

The EDIC discussed onsite and offsite signage, agreeing that it may be possible to allow seasonal signs for agricultural uses through addressing temporary signs for businesses as a whole. The EDIC agreed to discuss the revisions at a future meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Oorthuys