

TOWN OF STOW
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the March 9, 2017 Economic Development and Industrial Commission Meeting

Members Present: Kevin Whalen, Andrew Bluestein, Bob Collings, Tom Farnsworth, Serena Howlett

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

Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2017

Tom Farnsworth moved to approve the minutes as amended.

Bob Collings Seconded.

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

Members' Updates

None.

Work Plan Update

Letter to Planning Board

The EDIC discussed drafting a letter to the Planning Board regarding the Town's sign bylaw, noting that there are concerns with its burden on businesses and it would be helpful to hire a consultant to look at the legality of the bylaw and highlight what may be changed.

Springfest

The EDIC decided not to have a table at this year's Springfest.

Member Resignation and Vacancy Postings

Jesse Steadman said that in an effort to fill the EDIC's two vacancies, a letter should be sent to the resigned members for them to sign, and they should be informed that the EDIC will post their vacancies.

Budget Discussion- FY 18

Jesse Steadman said that because the EDIC's budget is funded through an article at Town Meeting, the amount left in their account will roll over to the next fiscal year. The account balance is currently \$2,469. The EDIC decided that an additional \$1,000 should be sought to complete items on the work plan.

Kevin Whalen moved to request \$1,000, the same amount as in previous years, to build a fund for community projects.

Bob Collings Seconded.

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

Prospective Business- Medicinal Marijuana Dispensary

Jesse Steadman said that a non-profit Medicinal Marijuana Dispensary is looking to site in Stow, on the Medicinal Marijuana Overlay District off of Hudson Road, and that they are looking to learn more about Stow's general feeling regarding Medicinal Marijuana. Legalizing Medicinal Marijuana passed in Stow, and the Town successfully created an Overlay District for dispensaries. The dispensary noted that they would attract a small amount of traffic, including employees vehicles, an armored car, and a truck. Jesse Steadman said that dispensaries may offer a good source of tax revenue, and that he would look for examples of fiscal impact analyses.

Stow Women's Business Alliance

Valerie Oorthuys described a recent meeting of the Stow Women's Business Alliance, saying that a group of 15 women, each with their own home-based business, has organized to lend each other advice, while identifying specific needs, such as technical assistance, marketing, and access to a shared co-working space. It may be possible for the EDIC to host entities which offer presentations or workshops for new businesses.

Discussion of Work Plan/ Next Steps on Priority Projects

Job Fair

The EDIC discussed hosting a Job Fair in Lower Village, and asked for more information on the logistics of hanging a banner across 117 to advertise.

Bose

The EDIC discussed inviting a representative from Bose to a future meeting to find out if they have any concerns, particularly around transportation.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Oorthuys