

TOWN OF STOW
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the March 12, 2020 Economic Development and Industrial Commission Meeting

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

Absent: Andrew Bluestein

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

Discussion of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of February 13, 2020

Bob Collings moved to approve the minutes as written.

Tom Farnsworth seconded.

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

Public Input

None.

Letters of Interest for Vacant Position

The EDIC reviewed two letters of interest for the vacant position and agreed to invite both candidates to a future meeting to discuss their interest and answer any questions.

Job Fair Planning

The EDIC agreed to push this discussion to the next agenda, especially in light of future closures and municipal response to the coronavirus.

Bicycling and Economic Opportunities

Jim Salvie provided the EDIC with his presentation 'Bikes Are Good for Business', which he has shared regionally with various groups through his participation with MassBike. The presentation explains the creation of the modern roadway network in cities and towns and the consistent bicycling population using those networks. Jim Salvie's data links job creation and revenue to cyclists, through construction projects, tourism, and retail. The presentation concludes with case studies related to how convenience stores and cafes may draw in cyclists as customers. The presentation is particularly relevant given the amount of bicycling traffic in Stow, whether these are recreational, commuter, athletic, or tourist groups. The EDIC discussed the proximity of the Assabet River Rail Trail to Stow's Business District and considered ways local shops could cater to bicyclists. The EDIC noted that construction such as the streetscape project in Lower Village further encourage this type of economic opportunity through the installation of bicycle lanes, which could bring more varied types of cyclists through the Business District.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Oorthuys