

TOWN OF STOW
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the April 27, 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 March 9, 2017

Bob Collings moved to approve the minutes as amended.

Andrew Bluestein Seconded.

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

Members' Updates

Andrew Bluestein said that while the EDIC opted not to have a booth at SpringFest, he has arranged one for Emma's Café and would be willing to have EDIC information on hand.

Andrew Bluestein said that he has learned of the positive economic impacts of Active Adult Neighborhoods. Andrew Bluestein said that property taxes at Regency at Stow could draw around \$900,000 annually in Town revenue.

Tom Farnsworth said that he became aware of another example of the Town's sign bylaw negatively impacting a business, as a directional sign for Stow Greenhouses was brought to the attention of the Building Inspector, and asked to be removed as it did not comport to the bylaw. The EDIC discussed the need for revisions to the bylaw.

Public Input

Barbara Rietscha, of Stow Greenhouses, discussed the economic implications of having an off-site directional sign for Stow Greenhouses removed. Barbara Rietscha said that she has spoken with Dwight Sipler of the Agricultural Commission to create a season for the business; though they do sell year-round, the Sign Bylaw necessitates a season for off-site agricultural signs.

The EDIC agreed that the language regarding off-site seasonal agricultural signage will need to be revisited as part of modifying the Sign Bylaw. The EDIC chose to write a letter to

the Agricultural Commission sharing their interest in having the Sign Bylaw reviewed and inviting at Commission's input.

Stow Job Fair

Andrew Bluestein said that he has spoken with some business owners in the Lower Village Shopping Plaza, including the manager of Shaw's, and feels that there is a good amount of interest in a job fair. Andrew Bluestein recommended that a job fair be held at Emma's Café in the late summer, with banners to advertise the fair installed in July or August. Andrew Bluestein said that banners may cost around \$400.

The EDIC discussed the types of businesses that may want to be involved in the fair and how they may approach organizing the event should there be overwhelming interest.

Jesse Steadman recommended writing a letter to businesses to further garner interest.

Discussion of Letter to Bose

At their meeting on March 9, 2017, the EDIC discussed inviting a representative from Bose to a future meeting to find out if they have any concerns, particularly around transportation. Jesse Steadman said that he has been in contact with the community relations specialist at Bose, who is working to find the best contact for the EDIC. Jesse Steadman said that he is waiting to hear back to finalize a date and time for the meeting.

Discussion of Letter to the Planning Board

The EDIC reviewed a draft letter to the Planning Board in which the EDIC recommended obtaining a consultant to review the sign bylaw for the benefit of Stow's businesses.

*Tom Farnsworth moved to accept the letter as written and send to the Planning Board.
Bob Collings Seconded.*

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

Discussion of Lower Village Traffic Safety Improvement Project

The EDIC discussed the plans for the Lower Village Traffic Safety Improvement Project, including updates since the March 9 EDIC meeting, and any remaining abutter concerns.

*Kevin Whalen moved to approve the Lower Village Traffic Safety Improvement Project.
Andrew Bluestein Seconded.*

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

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Oorthuys