

TOWN OF STOW  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the September 24, 2020 Economic Development and Industrial Commission Meeting

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

Absent: Jen Gero

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

**Public Input**

None.

**Members' Updates**

Kevin Whalen said it would be helpful to better understand how businesses in the area are responding to the pandemic. Jesse Steadman said there may be results from regional surveys that could provide a more comprehensive update, rather than opting to survey local businesses.

**Town Planner's Updates**

*New Businesses*

Jesse Steadman said that the former Stowaway Inn has been leased to Nan's Market, which will offer meals to go. Andrew Bluestein said a water treatment business, H2O Care, opened a location in the Shopping Plaza.

*Membership*

Staff will reach out to the two residents who submitted letters of interest in the spring for the vacancy on the EDIC.

*124 Great Road*

Jesse Steadman said the former Mobile station is for sale, though the site is still being treated for contamination.

*Stow House of Pizza*

Jesse Steadman said the owners have begun unpermitted site work to expand their outdoor dining area. The Planning Board has requested that they apply for a Special Permit prior to further site work being completed and noted that temporary outdoor dining could occur through a license on other areas of the property.

*Bose*

Jesse Steadman said it appears that Bose may be looking to move out of Stow. Staff met with the 495/MetroWest Partnership to discuss the types of entities that may be interested in the site, such as a life sciences company. The Planning Board could look to modernizing the Industrial District zoning bylaw to ensure the parcel remains in active use.

### **Lower Village Zoning Bylaw Update**

Jesse Steadman said that consultants at Dodson & Flinker were present at the Planning Board's meeting of August 25, 2020 to begin the Lower Village Business District zoning revision process. The bylaw updates will assume a future of the district that includes water infrastructure.

Bob Collings asked if public outreach would include businesses in the district. Jesse Steadman confirmed it would, and noted that the discussion with the Planning Board included economic feasibility of any proposed bylaw changes. To better understand the needs of businesses in the district, business owners and property owners will have opportunities to provide their input.

Serena Howlett asked if the consultants indicated whether the bylaw would include specific allowed uses or use categories. Jesse Steadman said the Planning Board will be looking for the consultants' feedback on use provisions, as the bylaw could either focus more on design and architecture or specific uses.

### **Temporary Outdoor Dining**

Jesse Steadman said that staff of several departments have finalized a temporary outdoor dining license so that food service businesses have a simple, fee-free way of serving customers safely outdoors during the pandemic. Outdoor Dining through a Special Permit process was allowed through this year's Town Meeting in July, though the Town recognizes the need to provide a simplified process. Food service businesses, or their associated property owners, without a Special Permit for outdoor dining may apply for one through the Planning Board, as the temporary license expires either once the Governor ends the state of emergency or six months from the date of issuance, whichever occurs first.

### **Meeting Adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Oorthuys