

TOWN OF STOW
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the May 25, 2017 Economic Development and Industrial Commission Meeting

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

Absent: Andrew Bluestein

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

Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2017

Bob Collings moved to approve the minutes as amended.

Tom Farnsworth Seconded.

VOTED: (4-0) Unanimously in favor (Kevin Whalen, Bob Collings, Tom Farnsworth, Serena Howlett- Yea).

Members' Updates

None.

Public Input

None.

Stow Job Fair

The EDIC reviewed a letter to send to businesses in town to invite them to participate in the job fair. The EDIC agreed that the letter should be sent to all businesses, and should also be posted in the Stow Independent, with a reminder of the Commission's two vacancies. The EDIC agreed that funds from their budget may go towards this mailing.

The EDIC reviewed a timeline of tasks to organize the job fair.

Follow-up to Planning Board Sign Bylaw Discussion

The EDIC reviewed a memo from the Planning Department which states the Planning Board's interest in hearing further specificity from the EDIC regarding the Sign Bylaw's restrictions for new and/or existing businesses. Kevin Whalen recommended that members review the bylaw to pinpoint issues or concerns to be discussed at the next meeting.

Serena Howlett suggested that a site walk through Lower Village may help get a better understanding of how signs in the business district are currently being used, and what existing signs may not be permitted, in order to clarify how the bylaw could be more flexible.

Jesse Steadman recalled that a Visual Preference Survey was created a few years back for a public forum on Lower Village, and that survey included images of business district signs. Jesse Steadman said that taking the survey may be of interest to the EDIC to get a sense of their preferences versus what is currently allowed in the sign bylaw, as another way of reviewing the bylaw's potential shortcomings.

The EDIC noted that the rules around enforcement of the bylaw are unclear and at times give responsibility to groups no longer in existence. The EDIC agreed to hold a working meeting so that the sign bylaw may be discussed in greater detail.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Oorthuys