

TOWN OF STOW
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the December 5, 2017 Economic Development and Industrial Commission Meeting

Members Present: Tom Farnsworth, Bob Collings, Serena Howlett, Jen Gero, Jean-Claude Sureau

Absent: Kevin Whalen, Andrew Bluestein

Tom Farnsworth called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2017

Bob Collings moved to approve the minutes as written.

Tom Farnsworth Seconded.

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

Member's Updates

Serena Howlett said that she would like to encourage more public input at the Commission's meetings. Serena Howlett provided members with an article from a July 2017 edition of the *Concord Journal* regarding Linear Realty, owner of Stow's Shopping Plaza. Serena Howlett said that she would like to learn more about the future of the Shopping Plaza and any concerns Linear Retail may have.

Serena Howlett said that she would like staff to invite Jeremy Blumberg, of Kleinfelder, as he is part of the team conducting remediation efforts at the former Mobil Station in Lower Village.

The EDIC agreed to invite Joel Kadis and Jeremy Blumberg to a future meeting.

Bob Collings said that he would like a representative from Bose attend a future EDIC meeting to learn about any concerns they may have and to follow up with the EDIC's request for Bose to complete a business survey.

Serena Howlett said that she would like Rob Albright, the owner of Crow Island Airfield, to attend a future EDIC meeting to discuss any business concerns. Jen Gero said that she believes the owner may have thoughts on transportation and traffic on Track Road to share with the Commission.

Jean-Claude Sureau offered to invite someone from Radant to a future meeting to follow up with the business survey. Jean-Claude Sureau said that Radant currently has about 140 employees.

The EDIC agreed that at these meetings, Bose, Radant, and Crow Island should be invited to the Job Fair planned for later in the winter.

The EDIC discussed the need for a public water supply. Valerie Oorthuys offered to put this on the agenda for an upcoming meeting so that staff can present on the issues and opportunities regarding water infrastructure in Stow.

Members of the EDIC asked for comment on the Planning Board's initial response to their letter regarding the Sign Bylaw. Valerie Oorthuys said that the Planning Board has received the letter, and will put the subject on an upcoming agenda to discuss more fully. Valerie Oorthuys said that the Board understands the need for the sign bylaw to be revisited, and they are interested in further clarifying the EDIC's recommendations. Serena Howlett asked to have the EDIC's letter sent to Jim Salvie, the Selectmen's liaison to the EDIC. The EDIC offered to attend an upcoming Planning Board meeting to discuss the sign bylaw recommendations in person.

2019 Budget and Work Plan

Valerie Oorthuys noted that a letter from the Town Administrator, a memo from the Planning Department, and a draft of the EDIC budget for fiscal year 2019 are included in the members' packets. Language in the draft budget showed a request of \$1,000 towards the hiring of a consultant for sign bylaw review.

The EDIC discussed the draft budget, and agreed that they would not want their budget request to be limited to hiring a consultant for the sign bylaw.

Tom Farnsworth moved that the EDIC request an additional \$1,000 for fiscal year 2019 to aid in future activities such as hiring consultants and funding a Town-wide job fair.

Bob Collings Seconded.

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

Stow Conservation Trust's Save Stow's Farms Initiative

Serena Howlett said that she received a letter from Stow Conservation Trust (SCT) soliciting funds for the Save Stow's Farms Initiative. Serena Howlett said that SCT has found a donor to match contributions to finalize the purchase of Carver Hill Orchard's Conservation Restriction. Serena Howlett said that she felt that the EDIC should support businesses in this way, and that orchards are a large part of the Town's identity. Serena Howlett said that the EDIC should be interested in maintaining Stow's open lands, as this improves the business climate in Stow.

Bob Collings said that he is unsure of the connection between the mission of the EDIC and supporting a Conservation Restriction at an orchard.

Valerie Oorthuys offered to look into the EDIC's ability to donate Town funds, as Town Meeting allocated a specific amount to the warrant article related to the Conservation Restriction purchases.

Serena Howlett withdrew the consideration, and mentioned the success of a branding workshop she participated in with another municipality, and said that the EDIC should consider the identity of Stow.

Stow Job Fair

The EDIC agreed to discuss the Job Fair at an upcoming meeting when more members are present to plan.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Oorthuys