

The Town of Groton Economic Development Committee

Minutes of Meeting, January 31, 2012

Introduction

Date, Time and Place

This meeting of the Economic Development Committee was held at 5:30 P.M. on Jan.31, 2012 at Town Hall.

Attendees:

- Mike Rasmussen as Chairperson, Gus Widmayer as Recording Secretary, Anna Eliot, Russell Burke, Jim Ryan, and Jane Bouvier.
- Peter Myette was not in attendance.
- No members of the public were present.

Proceedings

The Minutes of Meeting of the previous session on December 27, 2011 were taken by Anna Eliot and promised for the next meeting.

Discussion of the Master Plan

- Russ promised a full copy of the Master Plan for all to take home.
- Mike presented a draft letter to the Board of Selectmen concerning the EDC's intention to contact failed applicants in the Town's new business pool, [See attached draft].
 - a. Russ asked, "What about the successful applicants?"
 - i. It was agreed to change the wording to replace "tried and failed," with "participated."
 - b. Mike asked, "Is it within our charter?"
 - c. Anna, "Yes, it seems within the charter."
 - d. A general discussion ensued on Russ Harris's editorial in the Groton Herald concerning the Master Plan.
 - i. The Master Plan needs two added elements
 1. Economic development, and
 2. Sustainability. With one member on each sub-committee, was that too much influence?
- The discussion continued to the subject of zoning on Sandy Pond Road.
 - a. Russ indicated that we need a good zoning map showing business zones, stating, "Even Lost Lake has business zones at road endings."
 - b. Gus suggested that zoning must show consistency and fairness in its application to specific cases.
 - i. Mike asked, "Does Groton spot-zone?"
- Mike challenged the Committee by asking, "Does it make sense for EDC to work under the outline of the Master Plan while so much derision exists in town about the Plan?"
 - a. Russ answered that not much will change in the Master Plan. Minority opinions will not outweigh the thousands of man-hours that have already been devoted to it. If the Planning Board adopts the Master Plan but it does not pass at Town Meeting, the Master Plan still stands.
- Gus volunteered that economic development does not have to entail construction *per se*. We can help assist businesses that desire to get into existing structures.

Discussion of General Business

- Anna mentioned that a Mr. Paul Harris expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Committee.
 - a. Mike reminded all that there were no openings but welcomed Mr. Harris to sit in on meetings.
- [A member] asked, "What are the market rents being paid in the area for retail and commercial space?"
 - a. The name of Joel Bergman was raised, [Secretary's notes unclear on this].

Dates and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 o'clock P.M.

- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 5:00 P.M. at Town Hall.
- No votes were taken at this meeting.