

Groton Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes 4/21/2016

Attendees: Russell Burke, Mike Rasmussen, Art Prest, Anna Eliot, John Konetzny and Laurie Connors Bonavita

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order by Mike Rasmussen at 5:35 PM at Groton Town Hall.

1. The committee approved the minutes from the March 17, 2016 meeting.
2. Art Prest presented a press release to send to local newspapers to publish that Groton now has a "Guide to Permitting". A motion was passed to send the press release to the Groton Herald, the Nashoba Voice and the Lowell Sun.
3. Art Prest compared Groton to other town's tax levy on residents and corporations.
4. Laurie Connors Bonavita reviewed towns in western MA, specifically Great Barrington and Deerfield, and the businesses they had that bring non-residents to town to eat and shop.
5. All members discussed frustrations with the process in town for businesses to look into Groton as an option to come to.
 - All members decided adding "Removing Concept Plan Approval Process at Town Meeting" to the Economic Development Priorities list.
6. Discussed Four Corners potential. Over 55 housing would be ideal to have a dedicated group to support the retail.
7. Discussed the future of the Prescott building with Laurie Connors Bonavita. Discussed the potential for Evans on the Common to move into building.
 - Discussed what the potential costs are for the Prescott building to renovate to satisfy the needs of the school system continuing to rent the space.
 - Discussed the Roudenbush building/community center in Westford. We will look into seeing how much the community center is costing the town or if it is self-sufficient.
8. Laurie Connors Bonavita reviewed Millbury, MA Economic Development and the success the town has had in recent years bringing new businesses in.
9. The next meeting will be May 26th at 5:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by John Konetzny