

Groton Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes 11/16/2016

Attendees for EDC: Russell Burke, Mike Rasmussen, Art Prest, Gina Cronin and John Konetzny

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order by Mike Rasmussen at 6:00 PM at Groton Town Hall.

1. The EDC is holding off on approving prior meeting minutes until the individual who took the minutes is present.
2. Russ proposed a motion to approve the EDC's Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Charge. Gina 2nd the motion, all were in favor.
3. The EDC discussed the MA grant the town received for Four Corners. Russ informed us the Wong property was sold to the same individual who is taking over the Shaws lease. The EDC discussed potential uses of the old Wong property and what the potential uses of the Shaws building could be if Shaws were to leave.
4. Art brought up the success in Rockport, MA, now that the inn in town has been completed.
5. The EDC discussed the Eversource property and the corner property diagonal of Shaws.
6. The group talked about educating the town residents of concept plan approval and what protections are already in place for the town without it. Gina brought up having a website where residents could go to learn more about it. Mike stated he would want to have the Selectmen's blessing on the website first. Gina will take the lead on the website. The plan is to start working on educating the town in January 2017.
7. Russ feels the town should be very specific on what land it would like to be developed. He said developers love when property is laid out for them. The EDC plans to review open lots in town and what businesses would be appropriate. The EDC plans to "cherry pick" businesses that would be appropriate to bring to the Planning Board because the Planning Board needs to be unbiased with ideas that come. The EDC can try and bring the "right" businesses to town and to the Planning Board.
8. The EDC had decided that the repeal of concept plan approval is at the top of the list of their priorities.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by John Konetzny