

# Groton Economic Development Committee

## Meeting Minutes 1/11/2017

**Attendees for EDC:** Russell Burke, Mike Rasmussen, Art Prest, John Konetzny and Fay Raynor.

**Non-EDC attendees:** Anna Elliot and Judy Anderson

### **Minutes:**

The meeting was called to order by Mike Rasmussen at 6:07 PM at Groton Town Hall.

1. The EDC reviewed previous meeting minutes. Josh made a motion to approve 11/30 minutes, Mike 2<sup>nd</sup> it, all in favor. Russ made a motion to approve 12/14 minutes, Art 2<sup>nd</sup> it, Josh abstained, not present at that meeting.
2. The EDC discussed the presentation Gina and Art made to the Selectman. Anna Elliot felt it was a good presentation as well. Feedback was good. Jack Petropoulos had sent an email to Gina saying the presentation was great. Art passed the information on to the EDC.
3. Art mentioned that Jack P. brought up at Selectman's meeting that Jack would like to see a list of potential properties the EDC is focusing on.
4. Russ brought in a map of downtown Groton and local business that the EDC helped Deluxe Corp. create in 2010. The town just ran out of the 500 that were ordered. The EDC would like to focus on updating the list and having more printed.
5. The group discussed the lack of commercial properties in town for small businesses to move into. Fay brought up that she knows 3 examples of local businesses who have struggled to find business space that is the right size and price point. They end up needing to consider other towns.
6. Anna Elliot brought up the fact that the IHMS is coming in and there will be a need for businesses around that area – restaurants, gift shops, etc. on Main Street. Josh added that somehow utilizing the rail trail as an access point to Station Avenue would be a great idea. This would build on the opportunity to develop Station Avenue – walking downtown. Josh was also interested in seeing what the opportunities could be between Mobil at the corner of Old Ayer Rd and the medical offices
7. Community member brought up that a music store would be ideal. John mentioned that there is currently a music store (The Minor Chord) next to the current location of the IHMS and the EDC should reach out to that music store in Littleton to see what their plan is, could be an opportunity for Groton.
8. Anna brought up reaching out to Halsey Platt, a local builder and John Amaral, a commercial realtor, to see what they're customers are looking for in town.
9. Josh said the Wong property at Four Corners was sold to South Coast Development – now they control the Wong property and Shaw's property lease for remaining 19 years
10. The EDC split up tasks for the members to complete for next meeting. Fay will start coming up with list/map of properties, and will reach out to GELD. Josh will reach out to Assessor's Office to and to South Coast Development to get an understanding of what their plans are for Four Corners. Mike will reach out to Evans on the Common and ask him to come and speak with the committee. John will get an updated list of businesses in town that was used in the MAP in

2010. Gina will speak with the Lacombe's. Art will reach out to National Grid (owners of land across from Shaw's and Sandy Pond Road).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by John Konetzny