

# Groton Economic Development Committee

## Meeting Minutes 1/25/2017

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

**Non-EDC attendees:** Anna Elliot

### **Minutes:**

The meeting was called to order by Mike Rasmussen at 6:05 PM at Groton Town Hall.

1. The EDC reviewed previous meeting minutes and requested a few changes. Mike made a motion to approve the amended 1/11/17 minutes, Russ 2<sup>nd</sup> it, all in favor.
2. The EDC members went around table to get updates. Art spoke with Frank Hartnett. He is still getting the same run around with National Grid in regards to their property on Sandy Pond Rd and not getting any new info. Frank is working with Nicky Tsongas on it. Art heard there could be a medical office on the Wong property. Frank would like residential housing on the National Grid property. Art let the EDC know that Frank would like to come speak to the EDC.
3. Gina informed the EDC that she had reached out to the Lacombe's but had not heard back yet.
4. Art is thinking of writing to the editor of the Herald about the financials of the town and what the EDC is looking to do. He will bring a rough draft to the next EDC meeting.
5. Fay brought up the idea of trying to get an article written in the Globe or Worcester Telegram and Gazette about how Groton is a great place to open a business. The EDC discussed potential avenues to get to the editors of the papers. Potentially reaching out to the Editor of the recent Globe article on Groton.
6. Fay went to GELD and got details on their mailers for the EDC to send out a survey. The cost is about \$300.
7. Russ invited John Amaral and Bob France to speak with the EDC on February 8<sup>th</sup> and Halsey Platt to speak with the EDC on March 8<sup>th</sup>. They are being added to the agenda.
8. Russ reviewed notes on a meeting he went to on 1/25/17 that was presented by Chris Moynihan and Peg Barringer. The meeting included info on how consumers want "experiential shopping" now because their value shopping is done online.
9. The EDC discussed the Wong property and what South Coast could be interested in doing with it.
10. John reviewed the DBA list he got from town hall. He spoke with Andy Bollman at Deluxe Corp and was informed they would sponsor the costs of having the new Groton business map updated and reprinted. John will review the map and split up streets for each EDC member to drive down and confirm businesses are still there or if new businesses have been opened.
11. Gina spoke with technology person at town hall and confirmed the EDC website will have a link from the Groton town website.
12. Mike reached out to Matt Evans, Matt told Mike he has no interest in leasing the Prescott building, only buying it. Mike felt it was a better for the town to sell the building than to keep it because the building needs over \$6 million in renovations. Mike will ask Matt to attend a EDC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 2/8/2017.

Respectfully submitted by John Konetzny