

Groton Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes 4/5/2017

Attendees for EDC: Mike Rasmussen, Art Prest, John Konetzny, Josh Degen, Fay Raynor and Gina Cronin.

Non EDC Attendees: Matt Evans, Micky Higgins, Frank Hartnett, Judy Anderson, Anna Elliot, Greg Sheldon

Minutes:

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

1. The EDC had invited Frank Hartnett and Micky Higgins to the meeting. They spoke about the land they are developing across from Shaws. They are excited to be Groton residents, developing in Groton. Micky mentioned that Stewart Health at 4 Corners was planning on leaving town to find bigger space. Stewart has committed to moving to the 7500-sq. ft. medical facility being built across the street. This will add both doctors and staff. Micky explained that the shell of the building is to be delivered by Jan. 2018 with a goal to start building by Labor Day. Micky went into more detail about the plans for the site and showed the EDC pictures. Frank mentioned he was concerned about the signage restrictions in town. He wants to make sure the appropriate signage is in place.
2. Mike made a motion to have the EDC write a letter stating that the EDC is in favor and support the project. Josh 2nd the motion and all were in favor. Gina will draft the letter.
3. The EDC reviewed previous meeting minutes from 3/8. Josh made a motion to approve the minutes, Mike 2nd it, all in favor. Fay abstained because she was not present at that meeting.
4. Gina reviewed the EDC website draft in more detail.
5. Matt Evans came to speak to the EDC. Josh recused himself from that part of the meeting. Russ was not present but sent an email to Mike to be read at the meeting. *See attached document.
6. Matt feels Groton could be a perfect town for his store to have a location. He has considered having it as the company's solo location as well as an additional location. He feels Groton could attract customers from the east and Townsend would continue to attract customers from the west. He also sees a Groton location a way to increase his "outdoor store" business. Matt said he was not opposed to buying a condo in Prescott if the building was turned into condos.
7. Greg spoke about how he feels having Matt speak to the EDC was putting the cart before the horse because it has yet to be decided if the Prescott building will be kept as a town asset or sold. There is a committee in place reviewing the potential outcome.
8. Fay brought up that she feels there would be too much money invested into the building to bring it to code just while deciding as to the future of the building. It could be wasted money. Anna feels having an established business paying part of the bills could be a great way to allow other parts of the building to be for community uses. More deliberation continued between EDC members and non-EDC members.
9. Mike proposed having the EDC write a letter to the Selectmen that they have spoken to Matt Evans and there is some interest in the property. Mike feels it is important for the Selectmen to know of all interest out there.
10. Josh feels that the Friends of the Prescott committee should first be invited to speak to the EDC to discuss their ideas before a letter is written to the Selectmen.

11. Greg feels the EDC should respect the fact that there is already a plan on the table for the Prescott building that would keep it as a town asset. Greg suggested that the EDC read through the plan for the Prescott building which is on the town website.
12. The Friends of the Prescott will be invited to the 4/26 EDC meeting for 6:00 to speak.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 4/26/2017.

Respectfully submitted by John Konetzny