

Groton Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes 4/26/2017

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

Non EDC Attendees: Sue Lotz, Bruce Easom, Jeanne Niomoller, Judy Anderson, Jack Petropoulos, Anna Elliot, Greg Sheldon, Kathryn Moore, Ginny Koslow-Dimola

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 from 4/5. Mike made a motion to approve the minutes, Gina 2nd it, all in favor.
2. Jeanne spoke about GD at Play. Turf field for GD. Could be revenue generator for school system. Would be a gift to school system from donations. EDC supports their efforts. Brings outsiders to town.
3. The EDC spoke with Friends of Prescott. Mike reviewed discussion with Matt Evans from the previous EDC meeting.
4. Art is concerned that the Friends of Prescott committee's goal from the start was for the building to be a community center and Evans on the Common was not considered as an option thoroughly. Art is also concerned with the use of CPA funds- he questions how much of the renovation costs could actually be paid for with the CPA funds. Art voiced additional concerns about the finances for the future of the building. He feels it would not be sustainable as a community center and will become the towns responsibility.
5. Bruce clarified what the CPA funds can be used for and that much of the renovations would be covered.
6. Greg explained that the plan is sustainable and it is only a blueprint that can be updated. Greg feels the plan can support Evans buying a portion of the property.
7. Bruce discussed why the Friends of the Prescott was formed. After the town meeting when it was decided to not sell the building, he felt there was a need for the town to have a 2nd option for the building in regards to keeping it so the Friends of the Prescott was formed. Bruce feels the process should be respected and the BoS needs to be allowed to first make a decision to accept or not accept the plan presented to them by the Friends of the Prescott. Bruce feels it would be bad for Groton to have a reputation that volunteers will get the rug pulled from underneath them. He feels that Evans on the Common should not be submitted to BoS before they are able to review the Friends of the Prescott's plan.
8. Mike reviewed how he feels the value of the building should be calculated.
9. Anna brought up that she thinks there can be both commercial use and community use in the building and both the EDC and the FOP should be open to it. Anna said she has heard there is a lot of interest in businesses leasing space in Prescott.
10. Sue said she reached out to Matt Evans and says he has not committed to anything. He told her he is looking at other locations as well and he has a lot to learn before he moved forward with the Prescott building. Mike stated that was hearsay and we had to rely on what Matt said at the meeting he attended.
11. Katherine said the FOP is excited to have commercial use in the building and that is the only way their plan would work. She is asking that the FOP is given more time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 5/8/2017.
Respectfully submitted by John Konetzny