

Groton Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes 6/14/2017

Attendees for EDC: Mike Rasmussen, Art Prest, John Konetzny, Fay Raynor and Gina Cronin (via phone)
Non-Member Attendees: Anna Elliot and Judy Anderson

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05PM

1. Mike raised a motion to approve and post minutes from 5/31/17 meeting, Art 2nd it, all in favor.
2. Art said the Planning Board is not happy with the EDC mission & vision statement. Art feels the Planning Board has a different vision for the town.
3. Mike felt the Planning Board doesn't think the focus of the EDC should be increasing commercial base. The Groton tax base is 97% residential, 3% commercial
4. Anna feels the Planning Board does support what the EDC is doing.
5. Art told the EDC that him and Russ were asked to meet with Jack Petropoulos, Becky Pine and Mark Haddad and they told them the EDC needs to support what they want to do, including the Prescott building.
6. Fay was disgusted only two-Selectman met with only two EDC members.
7. Art said Russ was so appalled at the position Jack, Becky and Mark put him in, he got up and left. Art stayed in disbelief.
8. The Selectman want the EDC to support the Prescott building staying a town asset under the management of the Friends of Prescott.
9. The Selectman withdrew the RFP and voted to negotiate two leases, one with the school district and one with the Friends of Prescott, 1 year lease.
10. Mike said he would support the RFP over the next year because he wants the FOP to succeed. We will then review their success in a year.
11. Mike brought up that he was shocked Art and Russ were called to meet with the Selectman, Gina felt it was very inappropriate, Anna felt it should have been a meeting in front of the public.
12. Judy said that the Planning Board feels there should be an EDC in town but they think the EDC would be better off reporting to the Planning Board instead of the Selectman.
13. Gina feels that if moving the residential and commercial tax base needle in a big way was a priority of the Selectman, they would hire someone to help the town with it.
14. Anna feels Jack has his own vision for who the EDC committee members are and he is lining them up and they are not current members.
15. Mike feels the EDC would be a better fit under the Planning Board, Fay feels we are better under the Selectman.
16. Everyone feels the meeting between Jack, Becky, Russ, Art and Mark was a violation of open meeting law.
17. Mike feels if we can increase the per square foot lease cost in town from \$14 to \$20-25, it will increase the value of properties in town and then increase tax revenue.
18. EDC talked about the Country Day School and the future for it, rumor could be a 55+ community or LA may be interested in buying it.

19. Mike was emailed by someone who may be interested in buying the church on Main Street. She wants to speak with the EDC about her ideas and see what EDC's thoughts are. She will speak at the next meeting.
20. Mike raised a motion that the EDC supports all members being reappointed, Art 2nd, all approve.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 6/29/2017 at 6PM.
Respectfully submitted by John Konetzny