

Groton Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes 9/7/2017

Attendees for EDC: Mike Rasmussen, John Konetzny, Alison Manugian, Art Prest, Fay Raynor and Gina Cronin (via phone)

Non- EDC Attendees: Judy Anderson, Anna Elliot, Steven Palmer

Minutes:

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

1. Reviewed minutes
2. Mike, being in commercial finance, decided to sit as an audience member and pass the chairman duties to Art for this part of the meeting (Steve's presentation) so he could ask questions as a resident.
3. Steve's objective of the presentation is to talk about how he is searching for investors to purchase a church on Main Street and open a Celestial Theater. He understands the EDC is not financially supporting the theater.
4. Steve let the EDC know the feedback from the Planning Board was positive.
5. Steve has had several formal and informal conversations with professionals to understand what would be needed to bring the church up to standards
6. Steve is requesting information to find out if the church can be rezoned to commercial, request for warrant to rezone to commercial was rejected. Currently residential.
7. A petition can be made to attempt to change zoning to commercial.
8. Steve reviewed what the Groton Celestial Theater was, reviewed Executive Summary.
 - a. Art films, foreign films, indie films
 - b. 2 screens, 120-150 main theater, 25-30 extended run theater
9. Theaters could be for rent for functions, approximately \$10/ticket, \$15/ticket for food
10. Reviewed other successful cinemas in New England.
11. Investments needed are \$900K-\$1.4 million to complete project.
12. Anna recommended speaking to neighbors to let him know his thoughts, introduce himself to the neighborhood and see what their recommendations are or feelings towards it.
13. The EDC asked Steve questions to learn more.
14. Art raised a motion to write a letter of support of the theater, Alison 2nd, all in favor.
15. Art brought up that he went to Tanglewood in Lenox, MA this summer with his wife for a few days, 97% tax on Groton residents, 77% on Lenox residential. Art talked about business that Tanglewood brings into the area and discussed how much revenue could be coming into Groton when Indian Hill opens.
16. The EDC discussed the selectman's meeting on Monday, September 11th, reviewed what each member will discuss.
17. The EDC discussed the schedule of meetings, possibly once/month in the future.
18. Alison brought up that someone spoke with the selectman about desire to open a marijuana dispensary with growing/cultivating.
19. The EDC discussed what could be desirable for Groton, Groton is a farming community, this would be a contemporary farming concept

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM by Mike Rasmussen.

Respectfully submitted by John Konetzny