

Groton Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes 10/18/2017

Attendees for EDC: Mike Rasmussen, Russ Burke, Gina Cronin, John Konetzny, Alison Manugian and Fay Raynor

Non-EDC Members: Judy Anderson

Minutes:

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

1. EDC reviewed the annual report drafted by Mike.
2. Russ reviewed the town is considering not banning marijuana which means the town cannot choose what type of marijuana is distributed.
3. Russ said all town owned land is public.
4. Chelmsford and Westford have "Ban Marijuana" on their fall town meeting agenda.
5. EDC discussed what the potential revenue stream to the town could be:
 - a. Property tax revenue
 - b. Utilities – GELD
6. The EDC discussed the topic "Will Groton be a town that cultivates/grows or has a retail location?"
7. Greatest revenue potential is retail which could have the greatest resistance from town residents.
8. Russ broke down the 5 major areas of revenue: retail, manufacturing, testing, wholesale distribution, cultivation.
9. The Planning Board supports the potential of revenue from marijuana.
10. Russ explained as of April 1st applications are being accepted for experienced growers, as of October 1st applications will be open for inexperienced growers.
11. The town is capped at 3% sales tax, state gets the rest.
12. The EDC will continue to monitor this and is not ready to take a stance on distributing and growing of marijuana.
13. Marijuana retail needs to be 20% retail shops as outstanding liquor store (5 liquor stores in Groton).
14. Circled back to annual report, will let the Selectmen we are ready.
15. Reviewed business listing map progress, digital file of business map, need to ask Deluxe Corp. for it, we can make edits.
16. Discussed website progress, will plan on 12/31 launch.
17. Alison discussed the senior center, \$450K is being requested for architecture.
18. Fay will get comments from EDC members at Nov. 1st EDC meeting for the survey and will make all changes, Judy provided Fay with changes she recommends on the survey. The goal of the survey is to understand the town – possible residents and potential developers/business owners.
19. Fay dug through Groton master plan
 - a. What is actually vacant, developmental land
 - b. How much is commercial vs. residential
 - c. Reviewed PowerPoint she created

20. EDC discussed Indian Hill Music School and concerns over building permit fee.
21. Next meeting is November 1st.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37PM by Mike Rasmussen, 2nd by Gina Cronin
Respectfully submitted by John Konetzny