

Town of Foxborough
Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2015

Members Present: Michael Saegh, Tom Murphy, Dan Krantz, Mark Grebbin, Sr., Kurt Yeghian, Lorraine Brue, John Eva

Guests: Bill Keegan, MaryBeth Bernard, Steve Winters, MAPC

The committee welcomed new member John Eva and spent time learning about his background with Schneider Electric. John is a long time employee of Schneider and described the desire of the company to have successful development of the downtown to support the needs of their many employees.

The committee discussed the meeting schedule and agreed to meet on the first and third Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is scheduled for September 7th.

David Feldman started the discussion on downtown development and the liquor license that is available from the American Legion. The committee discussed the value of the available all alcohol license and the importance of having it available as a tool to attract a business that will be most economically beneficial to the Town; it can bring substantial revenue to the Town. The Committee voted to draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending that the all alcohol license be held and that the node specific licenses be awarded as soon as available to qualified applicants.

Paige introduced Steve Winter from MAPC to the Committee. Steve reviewed a list of tasks, with description, responsible party and when applicable, estimated costs to consider for refining the scope of the grant. (See attached matrix). Topics included: Data collection, development of a Downtown Business Association, Market Analysis, Streetscape, Zoning, Education, and Housing.

Discussion covered: GIS resource availability-Paige will review with Ryan; creation of a Town Center Advisory committee to bring business and property owners together to work with Chambers of Commerce; John Eva discussed the need to extend the hours of downtown business operations- their younger employees are looking for housing options; need for an Economic Development position to support Paige was discussed. Paige will send out parking study information.

Dan Krantz mentioned working with Chris Steele, a marketing/site selection specialist, on development plans for the Kraft organization and suggested that he would reach out to Chris to see if he could meet with the Committee at a future date.

Paige discussed the importance of education / Why is Mansfield's downtown working and Foxborough's is not? Differences? Zoning was discussed; programming at the Orpheum; need for sewer for downtown development. Steve Winter will work with Paige and attend the EDC meeting on 9/21.

Route 1-August meeting - kicked off discussion of zoning changes. Discussed the downside of special permitting. Water is available to support development. Education is required to remove the perception that there is not adequate water supply. Discussed new well capacity. Sewer study underway.

Discussed fall town meeting articles. If there is a fall town meeting, will plan to bring forward requests for changes in setbacks and heights on Route 1.

Summary-Town is very conservative; should confirm Downtown Vision identified in Master Plan; recognize that transportation increases home values. John Eva summarized what he heard during his first meeting, as follows: (1) Foxborough doesn't want change; (2) The process is bureaucratic; and (3) Foxborough doesn't know what it wants to be.

Minutes submitted by Lorraine Brue
9/6/16