

EDC Minutes: 10/13/2020

Present: Marc Romeo, Beth Pelick, Brian Connor, Kevin Spendley, Donnell Murphy, Harry Broussides, Kevin Fettig, Margaret Kundert

Romeo opened the meeting at 5:15 PM

**Business:**

- **Director Update to the EDC:** To be placed on next agenda.

- **Discussion: RE: Supporting Businesses through the Fall:**

Romeo stated that thinks Walpole is doing a decent job from a community standpoint of patronizing the small and local businesses, and also from a Town stand-point, by being able to simplify, streamline processes while “taking down the road blocks” during this time. Connor expressed his concern for the local restaurants for the coming 6-7 months, due to the cold/ inclement weather making it difficult for people to continue dining outside, rendering the revenues of the establishments less than they currently are. Romeo recognized Connor’s concern and stated that it is an important and relevant concern due to the strict guidelines of the numbers of people allowed inside buildings. Connor asked if there is anything the Town can do for the restaurants regarding allowing or creating more curb-side space for food pick-up once the inclement weather settles in, and asked what could be done by the Town to encourage the local restaurants to increase their curb-side pick-up. Romeo recognized that snow banks, etc. would pose as an issue for curb-side pick-up space. Connor suggested that the Town figure out a way to better promote the restaurants that are doing/ will encompass curb-side pick-up. Connor mentioned incorporating a delivery component such as Grubhub/ Uber Eats/ Slice, etc. (delivery services) that the local restaurants could utilize in order to make it more convenient for the consumer and the restaurant staff to serve/deliver food. Romeo suggested doing an email blast to the local restaurants in order to make them aware of these services that they’d potentially want to use, and also as an overview of what to expect for the coming months ahead. Spendley expressed that the Town needs to increase the promotion of the local restaurants through the winter months. Romeo suggested speaking to Ashley in order to get a plan together with the Town as to exactly where these curbside pick-up locations will be, and what restaurants will be participating. Romeo suggested looking into other types of businesses, such as salons, that may still be struggling (possibly more) financially than others during this time. Broussides suggests focusing on local businesses versus utilizing Amazon, Grubhub, and other widely used third- party services, as a continued message. Pelick mentioned she had reached out to Patrick Shield regarding the Christmas events (tree lighting, parade, Santa), and clarified that the tree lighting and parade will most likely not take place this year, however nothing has been finalized. Broussides mentioned the parking overlay district item on the warrant, and raised the question of how the article would benefit the local businesses within the town, stating that it may place more revenue into the Town government, while taking away from the local businesses.

- **Discussion of Tax Classification:** not discussed at this time

- **Minutes:** No minutes were accepted at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Accepted 11/10/20