



**Economic Development Commission
Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 5:00 PM
Room 112, Walpole Town Hall**

April 10, 2018 Meeting minutes

Attending:

Members: Donnell Murphy (Chairman), Beth Pelick (Vice Chairman), Michael McGrath, Ken Fettig, Mark Romeo, John Hasenjaeger and Harry Brousaides (Chamber of Commerce Representative) & Tim Higgins (Community Development Director)

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Minutes

The minutes from the March 06, 2017 meeting were reviewed by the members. A motion was made by Mr. McGrath and seconded by Mr. Fettig to approve. The vote was 6:0 in favor.

Board Reorganization:

Mr. Murphy indicated that he would like to pass on the Chairmanship as his current schedule does not allow sufficient time to perform the duties at a high level. A brief discussion took place on the responsibilities of the Chair after which Mark Romeo stated he would be Chair. Mr. Hasenjaeger made a motion to that effect which was seconded by Ms. Pelick and it was voted 5:0:1 (Mr. Murphy abstaining). Mr. Hasenjaeger made a motion seconded by Mr. Romeo to retain Ms. Pelick as Vice-Chair and it was voted 5:0:1 (Ms. Pelick abstaining).

New Business:

- **Main Street Live:** There was a lengthy discussion on this signature event. It was agreed that the same sub-committee from last year would manage this effort. Mark has already initiated work and wants to “grow” the event to keep it fresh. He also emphasized the importance of not losing sight of the original intent - to bring folks downtown to patronize businesses. Among other items, the use of temporary “curb extenders” was discussed to enhance the sidewalk environment and to possibly promote outside dining. It would require removing a parking space. Tents, tables and chairs will be sought from the “All Seasons” business. It was also noted that the Board of Selectmen will need to be updated on the planning for the event. Mr. Higgins was asked to locate the Main Street Vendors list and forward it to the Committee.
- **Former Police Station (old Town Hall) Re-Use:** There was a broad-ranging discussion on the re-use options and the process/need for renovating the building. It was agreed it will be costly but the importance of the building in the downtown could not be overstated. A meeting with the Old Town Hall Re-Use Committee was suggested.
- **The Business Form breakfast:** It was agreed this event will take place on November 8th at the Walpole Country Club. Mr. Fettig will make the arrangements for the facility. Ms. Pelick will address the need for awards. It was noted that a keynote speaker will be needed. Mr. Higgins will search the files for a

list of past attendees and (if located) will forward such to the Committee. Mr. Brousaides noted that he may have a list of past attendees.

- **Downtown Planning Study:** Mr. Higgins confirmed the availability of a \$20,000 grant for a downtown study. He needs to meet with the Town Manager to discuss the details and Request For Proposals (RFP) process. This is not expected to occur until after the Annual Town Meeting (05/07 & 05/09). This issue will remain on the agenda and Mr. Higgins will send out the draft scope to members.

Old Business:

- Mr. Higgins provided the Committee with a brief update of the three (3) on-going multi-family developments: Liberty Village apartments (152 units) is under construction, Corcoran apartments (192 +- units) is fully approved but no construction has been initiated and the proposed Pulte condominium project (180 units) on East Street has just begun permitting. He opined that these projects would bring new residents into the Central Business District and have a measurable, positive impact on the local businesses.

Zoning Discussion:

- The Warrant Article concerning the Town Planner position was briefly discussed. Mr. Murphy noted that attended the Fin Com meeting and that they were strongly opposed to the Article. They voted 15:0 to not support it.

At 5:55 p.m. Mr. Higgins had to leave to attend the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

The next scheduled meetings are May 08, 2018 and June 12, 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.