

EDC Minutes: 12/8/2020

Present: Marc Romeo, Brian Connor, Kevin Spendley, Harry Brousaides, Kevin Fettig, Margaret Kundert, John Shalbey, Beth Pelick

Absent: Donnell Murphy

Romeo opened the meeting at 5:15 PM

Business:

- **Discussion re: Moosehill 40B Comprehensive Permit:**

Romeo mentioned that a request for comments was circulated for the upcoming opening of the public hearing for the Moosehill Comprehensive Permit with a deadline of 1/6/21, and requested that if any members have comments, to submit them to him prior to the 1/6/21 deadline.

- **Discussion re: Community & Economic Development Director- Ashley Clark:**

Romeo explained to the Commission that Clark will be working remotely during the months of December and January and then transition out of her role with the Town of Walpole. Messier will be handling agendas, meetings and minutes until another Director comes into place.

Open Forum:

Romeo mentioned that in August the Select Board had an opportunity to vote for a grant that would have helped the downtown businesses get through the Covid-19 pandemic with allowing them to move their businesses outside, in which the Select Board passed on pursuing that grant. Brousaides explained that the grant is called Shared Winter Streets & Spaces Grant Program on Mass.gov. The program provides grants between 5k-300k for quick build improvements for public health, safe mobility and renewed commerce. The next three potential deadline dates that could be met are 1/5/21; 1/29/21; and 2/26/21. There was previous discussion on the shutting down of Elm St. extension, however it was met with many traffic/ safety concerns. Brousaides stated that the money from the grant could be used to enhance/extend the square footage and workable space for the restaurants and commercial businesses along Main St. by removing some parking, and placing barriers, along with improving the lighting within the area as well. Brousaides stated that the Select Board is seeking a written letter of approval to encourage the Town to seek the grant funds from the EDC. Romeo would like further clarification from the Select Board re: possible unknown restrictions/parameters; an executive summary of information regarding the grant and the reasoning behind their decision to not move forward. The Commission touched upon the idea of possibly looking into putting a comprehensive zoning change re: downtown (CBD), with some Commission members to participate in a sub-committee to brainstorm for a forward moving process.

Minutes: no minutes were approved at this time

Shalbey motioned to adjourn, seconded by Spendley, roll call vote: Brousaides-aye; Connor-aye; Spendley-aye; Fettig-aye; Kundert-aye; Shalbey-aye; Pelick-aye. The motion carried 6-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Accepted 1/12/21