



Town of Walpole
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Community & Economic Development

JAMES A. JOHNSON
Town Administrator

Patrick Deschenes
*Community & Economic
Development Director*

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
4/19/22

Present: Marc Romeo (Chair), Beth Pelick (Vice Chair), Donnell Murphy, John Shalbey, Brian Connor

Absent: Kevin Spendley

Also present: Patrick Deschenes (Director of Community & Economic Development) and Harry Brousaides (Walpole Chamber Liaison), Ken Fettig, Former EDC Member

Mr. Romeo opened the meeting at 5:02 P.M.

BUSINESS:

Master Plan 2022 – Reappointment of EDC representative

Mr. Romeo explained that 3 members – Mr. Fettig, Ms. Kundert, and Mr. O’Driscoll did not to seek reappointment. Mr. Romeo also stated that Ms. Kundert had been the EDC representative to the Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC), and that her absence would mean that a new representative from the EDC would be needed.

Mr. Deschenes and Mr. Romeo discussed the logistics of ensuring a member from the EDC will be present on the Master Plan Steering Committee.

Mr. Murphy explained that he thought he and Ms. Kundert would be switching roles on the Master Plan Steering Committee, where Ms. Kundert would serve an at-large member and he would serve as the EDC appointee. Mr. Murphy felt that a new MPSC member would be unaware of all the work already completed.

Mr. Deschenes stated that an appointed member to the MPSC needs to serve on the appointing board. Mr. Romeo voiced his opinion for keeping both Mr. Murphy Donnell and Ms. Kundert on the MPSC.

Motion to appoint Donnell Murphy as the EDC representative to the master Plan Steering Committee by Mr. Romeo, seconded by seconded by Ms. Pelick

Vote: (4-0-1)

(Romeo-aye, Pelick-aye, Shalbey-aye, Connor aye, Murphy-abstain)

EDC Reorganization Discussion

Mr. Romeo discussed the topic of reducing the number of members of the EDC, as well as the term length.

Mr. Shalbey voiced his support for a 7 member commission.

Mr. Connor voiced his support for 7 members and the dissolution of associate commission members.

Mr. Murphy expressed his support for reducing the amount of commission members in order to reach a quorum easier. Ms. Pelick agreed with statements from all other members.

Motion to reduce the number of members from 9 to 7, by Mr. Shalbey and seconded by Ms. Pelick.

Vote: (5-0-0)

(Romeo-aye, Pelick-aye, Shalbey-aye, Connor aye, Murphy-aye)

Zoning Bylaws: Potential Amendments to Facilitate Economic Growth

Mr. Deschenes thought the discussion would be more beneficial when all members are in person and present. Discussed possible changes in the table of use regulations and the dimensional regulations for commercially zoned districts. Mr. Deschenes briefed the commission on the new regulations pertaining to the MBTA by-right multi-family zoning and its possible impact on Walpole's zoning.

Main Street Live

Mr. Romeo discussed with Mr. Murphy about forming a Main Street Live subcommittee and holding a meeting in late April or early May. Mr. Shalbey offered to help organize food trucks. Mr. Murphy mentioned that there needs to be somebody in charge of donations. Mr. Connor expressed his interest in possibly being the liaison for donations. Mr. Deschenes will check to see who the new staff member at the recreation department is in charge of with assistance on Main Street Live. The Main Street Live subcommittee planned to meet on April 27 at 10:30 A.M. at Mr. Murphy's office.

Department Updates

Mr. Romeo thanked and praised Mr. Fetting for his service to the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Deschenes briefed the board on ZBA Cases No. 22-1 and No. 22-4, and building permits pulled for the 979 Main Street property.

OPEN FORUM:

1. MINUTES (3/15/21): Commission did not vote on the minutes

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Shalbey and seconded by Ms. Connor to adjourn. The motion carried in favor 5-0-0.

(Romeo-aye, Pelick-aye, Shalbey-aye, Connor aye, Murphy-aye)

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 P.M.