

EDC Minutes 6/23/ 2020

Present: Marc Romeo, Beth Pelick, Harry Brousaides, Brian Connor, Kevin Spendley, Donnell Murphy, John Hasenjaeger

Romeo opened the meeting at 5PM

**Business:**

- **Discussion of the reopening status of restaurants and outdoor seating:**

Spendley and Murphy stated that they've witnessed patrons utilizing the outdoor dining at the local restaurants in Walpole, and business seems to be going in a positive direction for the outside dining.

- **Main Street Live 2020 feasibility discussion:**

Romeo stated that Jim Johnson would still like to see Main Street Live happen, however, with guidelines and phasing continually changing, it's difficult for the Commission to plan an event without knowing the parameters that will be in place at a different time. Romeo suggests the Commission re-visit the topic in mid-September in order to have a better understanding of what parameters will be in place then and going forward. Murphy stated that putting together the Main Street Live 2020 involves a significant amount of work, and that there is a lack of volunteers, and is therefore unsure of how it will be possible to run a successful Main Street Live Event, with those factors, along with COVID-19 protocol enforcement having to be taken into consideration as well. Spendley expressed that the Commission approach the BOS regarding Main Street Live in the near future, and get their outlook on the event, and to possibly discuss having the event take a different "form" for 2020, like a larger open space area, Romeo mentioned the area of behind Town Hall as an idea, where its less congested and leaves more room for people to move around and distance themselves. Romeo expressed his concern as well with the lack of volunteers that Murphy mentioned earlier. Spendley mentioned that the Commission still needs to acquire all of their licenses and permitting for the event. Romeo stated that until the Commission meets with the BOS, the Commission is unable to properly plan any event at this time. Hasenjaeger stated that Main Street Live should not go forward if schools are not open, etc.

- **EDC mission and focus discussion:**

Romeo stated that if anyone on the Commission had any ideas as to what their mission and focus could include that he'd be more than willing to write something up for the upcoming BOS meeting. Romeo asked the Commission if they'd prefer to have the BOS meeting via Zoom or in-person? and expressed that he's preferable to an in-person meeting. Romeo asked the Commission if they would prefer to have the BOS assign the mission to them, or to create a mission to present to the BOS. Hasenjaeger stated that the original mission was to provide a voice for the business community and to Town government and to give advice and feedback to

the Administration on public policy and actions/conditions/regulations that were not business friendly/appreciated.

**Open Forum:**

Romeo expressed that he would like additional Board members and put out a notice that they are seeking a new member. However, before actively recruiting for another member, Romeo would like to figure out the mission and focus of the Commission. The Commission discussed the importance of getting more involved in Zoning and touched upon affordable housing, and residential and commercial land throughout the Town.

Hasenjaeger motioned to adjourn, seconded by Boursaides, the motion carried 7-0-0 the meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

**Accepted 7/14/20**