



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
6/21/22

Present: Marc Romeo (Chair), Donnell Murphy, John Shalbey, Brian Connor, Kevin Spendley

Absent: Beth Pelick (Vice Chair)

Also present: Patrick Deschenes (Director of Community & Economic Development)

Mr. Romeo opened the meeting at 5:00 P.M. Mr. Romeo addressed the recent vote of the Select Board to reduce the makeup of the EDC from 9 fulltime members with 5 associate members to 7 fulltime members and 0 associate members.

Mr. Deschenes stated that the Commission has 6 fulltime members currently and that only 4 members are needed for a quorum.

Mr. Romeo asked if there were to be any changes with the EDC member representation on the Master Plan Steering Committee. Mr. Deschenes stated that it appears that the Master Plan Steering Committee will go forward with 12 members and that Mr. Murphy will be the EDC representative.

BUSINESS:

Main Street Live

Mr. Deschenes addressed the June 8, 2022 Town Department review meeting. Mr. Deschenes stated that the meeting went similar to past meetings and that the layout was discussed and reviewed by DPW and Police staff. Mr. Deschenes stated that he had started the process of applying for necessary permits through the Select Board.

Mr. Deschenes stated that he would start to work on the events branding and advertisement imagery.

Mr. Shalbey discussed the food trucks that signed up already. Mr. Shalbey stated that he would be looking for only a few more trucks.

Mr. Romeo addressed the music for the event and stated that he was in talks with six (6) bands currently.

Mr. Romeo discussed advertisement from recreational marijuana dispensaries and wanted the Commissions opinion on the matter. The Commission discussed that matter and ultimately would want more information before making a decision.

Mr. Romeo asked Mr. Connor about his sponsorship program and price points for sponsorships.

Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Romeo about the barricades. Mr. Romeo stated that he would follow up with the vendor.

Mr. Murphy asked about future subcommittee meetings. The Commission stated that they would have a Main Street Live Subcommittee meeting on Wednesday June 29, 2022 at 5:15 P.M.

The Commission asked about digital signage and other advertisement options to pursue for lead up to the event.

Summer Meeting Schedule

Mr. Deschenes asked about eliminating EDC Meetings for July and August. Mr. Romeo stated that as long as they can cover what they need to do for Main Street Live they could look into eliminating some of those meetings.

The Commission stated that they would keep the July meeting and remove the August meeting. The Commission ultimately stated that they would have another Main Street Live subcommittee meeting on July 18, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

Zoning Bylaws: Potential Amendments to Facilitate Economic Growth

The Commission addressed a few of the zoning discussion points that were brought up at the May meeting. Mr. Deschenes stated that he would make this item a topic for the July 19, 2022 meeting.

The Commission discussed the Water Resource Protection Overlay District.

Department Updates

ARPA Funds

Mr. Deschenes stated that the Select Board is still looking over all requests for ARPA funding. No decisions had been made at this time.

Master Plan

Mr. Deschenes stated that a public survey regarding action items is still ongoing.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Shalbey and seconded by Mr. Spendley. Motion passed 5-0, all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.