



Town of Pepperell Economic Development Advisory Committee

1 Main Street, Pepperell, Massachusetts 01463-1644

Minutes – March 18, 2021 Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Mark Mathews, Chair
Joyce Morrow, Clerk
Chet Babineau
Stephen Themelis
Chuck Walkovich

Committee Members Absent:

Kelli Kinney
John Masiello

Additional Attendee(s):

Deb Fountain
Joanne Smith

Meeting Convened at 6:00 PM. Pledge of Allegiance took place. Meeting was recorded.

1. Minutes of the February 18th meeting

Minutes of the February 18, 2021 meeting were accepted and approved.

2. Discussion

Discussion pertained to the Pepperell Real Estate Professionals questionnaire that was distributed. Real estate professionals were invited to join the meeting, but Joanne Smith was the only individual on the call. Ms. Morrow read the questionnaire questions and responses received from only four local realtors. Discussion ensued after all questionnaire feedback was read aloud.

Action items: Ms. Morrow to compile all of the questionnaire responses onto one document which she agreed to distribute to EDAC members for review and comment for next month's meeting.

Chair informed group of a memo just received regarding the LRRP initiative. Discussion proceeded along the lines of how EDAC could support this initiative by engaging with Pepperell business owners either through a survey or face-to-face. SB has offered to reach

out to Pepperell businesses as well. Chair asked if we could have the document distributed to the PBA in connection with the LRRP initiative, it would be quite helpful. The State is looking for each town to collaborate on getting the survey distributed to the appropriate parties, but the survey results would go directly back to the State. It is believed that the survey results will help dictate what the LRRP committee will be working on. The survey will be created by the State and sent to NMCOG for distribution to the Town. Mr. Themelis explained his understanding on how the survey would be conducted. NMCOG will lead the initiative and representatives would be here in Pepperell working through the process. Chair asked if EDAC would be willing to work with the appropriate parties to get the survey out, completed, and submitted to the State as details become available.

Joanne Smith, representing the PBA, agreed to circulate the survey to PBA members.

Mr. Themelis asked how the Planning Board is involved in this process? Chair responded that since Lisa Davis is involved in the LRRP initiative, she represents the Planning Board and will convey the necessary information to PB members.

There was a Chat question posed to Ms. Smith. The Nashoba Conservation Trust announced that they had land available to rent out for farming and inquired about how to list it? Ms. Smith indicated that she could take care of that and would contact NCT for details and further discussion. Ms. Fountain indicated that it was a 20 acre parcel suitable for hay or corn. Ms. Smith agreed to reach out to NCT to see how she could help with their inquiry.

Chair reviewed FinCom meeting discussion regarding need to hire various staff in Town. He proposes that EDAC create and present a letter of support for a Certified Town Planner and to support the PB on this topic. He asked if EDAC members were in agreement to support the need for a CTP.

Chair asked for a motion to present a letter of support for the PB's budget consideration to FinCom for a Certified Town Planner for FY2022. Motion was accepted and approved by all EDAC members.

Members agreed to send Ms. Morrow bullet items for inclusion in a letter of support that she agreed to draft from EDAC to FinCom in support of the need for a full-time Town Planner.

Chair shared screen regarding MP Recommendations and asked to discuss any updates and action items. Discussion focused on completing status updates. Chair talked about developing talking points for EDAC to use when talking with individuals/groups, etc., about what we do, our vision, and how our work impacts the Town and residents.

Chair asked for a Motion to Adjourn.

3. Adjournment

Motion was received and approved to adjourn at 7:53PM.

4. 2021 EDAC Meeting Schedule

April 22

May 20

June 17

July 15

August 19

September 16

October 21

November 18

December 16