



Town of Fairhaven

Department of Planning and Economic Development

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Fairhaven Economic Development Committee

Minutes

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Thursday, March 18, 2021 - 6:30p.m.

1. Quorum & Attendance:

Present: Kevin McLaughlin, Cathy Melanson, Jessica Fidalgo, Robert Epindola, Bernie Roderick

Absent: Todd MacGregor and Eddie Lopez. Kevin stated that Todd was traveling and wouldn't be back in time for the meeting.

Mr. McLaughlin opened the EDC Meeting at 6:35 p.m. Mr. Foley (Director of Planning and Economic Development) read the revised open meeting law for the record.

2. Review and Approve minutes of February 18, 2021: Cathy Melanson made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Robert Espindola. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Goals of Economic Development:

Standard on all agenda's in case anyone has any questions on what the goals of the EDC are.

Paul Foley stated that he had received a call from NYE Lubricants who were bought out by a Global Company, stating that they wanted to add a 60,000 square foot addition.

4. Rt. 6/240 Redevelopment Study and Grants Town Planner Update

• Site Readiness Grant –

- We have been awarded the equivalent of \$75,000 for an environmental overview of the Redevelopment Target Area.
- Mass Development will assign an experienced professional consultant to perform an environmental overview of sites within the Target Area.
- The hope is to identify barriers to development and sites that need brownfields grant money for assessment and cleanup.
- For example the Roller Rink deal fell through due to being down gradient of a former Dry Cleaner. Rumors abound of items buried under plaza parking lots and other spots
- They may also do an overview of the Landfill reclamation that was attempted over 30 years ago. Has the technology or mitigation practices changed to make the landfill reclamation possible without the nuisance?
- Poor drainage at the Landfill has created wet land and a possible danger of toxic chemicals leaching into the water.

- EDA/DLTA Grant –

- The EDC has already committed \$3,500 and now Mr. Foley is asking for an additional \$2,500 to make it \$6,000.
- We will add the FY 21 Municipal Assistance Hours from SRPEDD that are estimated at \$4,000 for a total local match of \$10,000.
- The State Division of Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) will add \$27,500 making the Town and State portion \$37,500.
- We will then use that as a 50% match to apply to the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) for \$37,500 for a total \$75,000.
- If we get the grant the study will explore the feasibility of incentivizing further industrial and commercial development in the Industrial District within the Target Area. The Study will seek to develop a comprehensive framework that establishes existing Site and market conditions and examines potential scenarios for plausible redevelopment. In addition, the study will recommend a variety of implementation strategies to foster business expansion and job creation in the local and regional economies with the goal of promoting sustainable community growth.
- Bob Espindola made a motion to put another \$2,500 of EDC FY21 money, for a total of \$6,000, and use the SRPEDD FY21 Municipal Assistance hours, as a local match for the DLTA and EDA grants for a study of strategies to foster business expansion and job creation in the Industrial District. Cathy Melanson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- One Stop for Growth Grant Program

- Mr. Foley will be submitting a letter of interest to the One Stop for Growth Grant Program. It is a new umbrella program for 10 different state grants. They are looking for 5 initiatives or areas and want the Town to tell them about their priority projects and then the State will work with us to identify which programs will be helpful.
- The Route 6/240 study is the top priority but he also spoke about different locations to target such as the Roger's School, Benoit Square, the EMA building on Sconticut Neck Road. Atlas Tack was also brought up however Robert Espindola stated that we would be going down a slippery slope as Atlas Tack is owned by someone else. It was also suggested that they try to rekindle talks with Atlas Tack owners.

5. Other Business: Regarding the budget for fiscal year 2022, no need to change the amount, the \$8,000.00 was enough. Cathy Melanson made a motion to keep the budget at \$8,000.00 and Jessica Fidalgo seconded the motion. All were in favor of budget staying the same.

Kevin McLaughlin also brought up when they may be able to actually get back together as a board at town hall to have their meetings. Robert Espindola stated that the State gave guidance however the town could put in place stricter guidelines. Mr. Espindola said he should know more after the next Selectman's meeting.

Also Bernie Roderick asked if the date of the next meeting was correct because 4/21 is a Wednesday and the board usually meets on a Thursday. It should be 4/22, not 4/21 as indicated on the agenda.

Cathy Melanson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m., Jessica Fidalgo seconded the motion all were in favor. Next meeting April 22, 2021.

Respectfully,
Susan E. Roderiques