



Town of Marlborough
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
May 18, 2023 7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Jillian LaCaresse called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Present and seated were Jillian LaCaresse, Benjamin Maynard, Mike Chotkowski, Jeremy Vigneault and Barbara Ferrera. Also present was Joe Asklar, Barbara O'Brien and Mark Paul.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Benjamin Maynard made a motion to add Joe Asklar before Peter Hughes' update. Jeremy Vigneault seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was passed.

Joe Asklar was present as a member of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Asklar asked the members of the EDC what the BOS can do for them to make the EDC better. Mr. Asklar explained the status of the 75 acres on Route 66 that is owned by the town and that the BOS is looking for ideas on what to do with the property. The installation of sewers from the center of town to the property was discussed at a recent BOS meeting. There is a \$5M grant for the project and paperwork will be completed. Mr. Chotkowski recalled the plan and ideas from a while back. The BOS hopes to get the property sold and developed and put on the tax rolls. Mr. Asklar then asked the members of the EDC to visit the existing companies in the Industrial Park on North Main Street. He gave brief details of each business. There was also a discussion on the regulations for water and sewer and the cost to build in town.

Mr. Maynard would like to see more information and communication between the EDC and BOS. He is hoping the EDC can get more energy to get going again. Mr. Chotkowski wants to see the 75-acre property move forward and would like the EDC to advocate for moving the project to the next level. Ms. LaCaresse will put a list together consisting of roadblocks or how to deal with the vacant businesses in town. She explained the proposed ordinance change and feels there needs to be a connection with the businesses. She feels the EDC is out of the loop and would like to add that the EDC can be an "advocate for businesses" in the ordinance. Mr. Vigneault would like to see the town using professionals to market the 75-acre property.

Ms. LaCaresse then asked the commission for suggestions. Mr. Chotkowski would like to see the 2006 marketing plan and will bring the old zoning booklet for town property. Mr. Vigneault would like to see the framework for starting a business in town and maybe add it to the new checklist.

3. UPDATES:

- i. Town Center Properties Update
Peter Hughes was not present.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- i. None

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- i. None

6. OTHER BUSINESS: None

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mike Chotkowski made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2023 regular meeting. Benjamin Maynard seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was passed.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Mike Chotkowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM. Jeremy Vigneault seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Magro
Board Clerk