

EDC Minutes 9/8/2020

Present: Marc Romeo, Beth Pelick, Brian Connor, Kevin Spendley, Donnell Murphy, John Shalbey, Harry Broussides, and Kevin Fettig, Ashley Clark

Romeo opened the meeting at 5:05 PM

-Romeo welcomed the new EDC Member, John Shalbey to the committee.

-Romeo notified the committee that John Hasenjaeger submitted his letter of resignation, and that it was accepted by the Select Board.

Business:

• Director Update to the EDC:

-Clark shared the update that the town received a grant for up to \$10,000 for microbusinesses (businesses that have 5 or fewer employees, including the owner), to help offset the impact of COVID-19. A webinar it set up on 9/16 via Zoom at 2PM regarding the grant (qualifications, expectations). Sarah Khatib asked if the webinar could be attended by anyone, or by invitation only, in which Clark responded that anyone can attend the webinar. Murphy asked how the reach-out is going to the businesses, in which Clark stated that it was sent out to all EDC members, a survey was also sent out, and two newspapers were notified. Murphy recommended that the grant info and application be placed on the Town website page. Connor recommended reaching out to the local banks in Walpole in order to facilitate getting the word out.

-Clark mentioned to the committee that there are to economic development oriented warrant articles that will be placed on the Planning Board meeting agenda, which include the following;

1. to allow outdoor dining and;
2. To allow outdoor entertainment by-right- since the current Zoning requires at least 1,000 ft. of frontage, or a Special Permit is required. Clark clarified that outdoor entertainment is qualifies as outdoor TV's and music, and explained that the approval of these two warrants would eliminate the zoning issue out of the way, and does not impact or change any of the licensing required by others boards. Romeo asked if the Select Board has a mechanism in place to allow alcohol within the new space without having to go to the state regarding the restaurants that currently lease land from the town, in which she stated that her understanding would be that the business would need to enter into a seasonal lease agreement with the Town and apply for a change of premise with local authorities of the municipality.

-Clark mentioned to the committee an event planned for 10/3/20 from 12-3 PM called the "Uncommon Art Walk", which would include 10-13 different artists set up at tables with their art for sale, with one area blocked off for consumption of wine. Clark stated that she has been working with Devino Wineries to facilitate a wine-tasting, and hopefully have an ice-cream truck, that would be contained to one area. Clark stated that she is seeking the support of the EDC regarding this event, and that she will be going in front of the Select Board on 9/15/20 to

ask them for approval to close Elm St., and to do the event. Khatib stated that people can apply to be a part of this event at Destination Downtown (DDWalpole@gmail.com), along with applications being made available in the Office of the Administrator and Community Development. Khatib also mentioned the possibility of having a designated area for people to order food from local restaurants, in which the restaurants would then deliver the food to the event, or schedule reservations for the restaurants.

- **Recommendation to the Select Board regarding “Uncommon Art Walk”:**

Fettig motioned to support the event and the Destination Downtown Group, seconded by Shalbey, the motion carried unanimously 8-0-0.

- **EDC Membership discussion:**

Clark stated that there is one more full-voting member position available. Romeo stated that there should be 9 full time, 1 liaison, and either 3 or 5 associate (non-voting) members. Clark stated that she is trying to find documents that depict how many members the EDC can have. Clark also mentioned that sine she is unfamiliar with each committee members expertise is, and recommended having a session in which EDC members can share their background, and their goals and focus is for the EDC. Romeo suggested placing this item on the next agenda.

- **Minutes:**

No minutes were read or accepted at this time.

Murphy motioned to adjourn, seconded by Fettig, the motion carried 8-0-0 the meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Accepted 11/10/20