

EDC Meeting Minutes 01/27/2022 Approved 02/10/22

Chairman: Bob Nash

Commission Members: Sam Ivanov, Riche' Colcombe, Sara Edie

Town Administrator: Laura Buono

Planning Director: Robyn Payson

Supt of Schools: Patricia Parenteau

Excused: Patricia Parenteau, Bob Nash

Selectman: Meleny Nagy

Members of the Public:

Guest:

Sara Edie attended the meeting by phone.

Meeting Minutes: 01/06/2022

Sam Ivanov suggested it be added to the minutes that the ED has not gotten the T-Mobile grant.

Susanne White made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Sam Ivanov seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Gateway Project

Robyn Payson said Mike Tardiff came to the Planning Board to introduce the idea of what a Gateway Zone was. There was discussion about uses that include condo's and workforce housing.

Susy White said that what was emphasized by Mike Tardiff was the importance of reaching out to the public and the property owners.

Robyn also spoke briefly about the potential for an Economic Revitalization Zone (ERZ). This is a designated area in the town. It provides a tax credit up to \$825,000 applied against the property owner's business profits tax if full time jobs are created. The Board of Selectmen can adopt an ERZ.

Robyn said Mike Tardiff would like to come to the EDC to talk about the Gateway Project and the ERZ zone. It was determined that he would be invited by the Commission for the February 24th meeting.

Reach out to Kim Opperman, Owner of the Rumrill block and 1 Main Street.

Sam said she thought it might be beneficial to talk to some of the property owners downtown to see what their challenges were as we determine what project will be used to apply for the T-Mobile grant.

There was discussion about bringing the property owners in for a meeting.

Dark Skies

The Planning Board began discussing the proposed Dark Skies ordinance. Cameron Ickes from Life Forest will be working with the Board because they are looking for approval to be a Dark Skies Park. There will be a subcommittee formed to work on this as the Planning Board's schedule has been so heavy.

There was discussion about ideas for events to get the public interested.

Hometown Grant-Identify Project

There was discussion about determining the “shovel ready” project to use when applying for the grant. Following discussion, the Commission decided that improving the River Walk was the best project to move forward.

The idea is to improve the River Walk by clearing the brush, put down gravel, install a 10 station fitness walk, and plantings

There was a detailed discussion regarding planning the space.

The information about cost is fairly simple to put together.

A meeting to work on the grant was scheduled for February 10, 10:00 am in Laura’s office.

Other Business

The Commissioners engaged in a discussion about future development of the downtown.

Riche’ made a motion to adjourn. Susanne White seconded the motion.

Meeting Adjourned 10:25 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn Payson, Planning Director