

EDC Meeting Minutes 7/15/26

Approved

8:04 am to 8:54 am

Chairperson: Rich Pelletier

Vice Chairperson: Dana Clow

Commission Members: Riché Colcombe, Kim Opperman, Bob Nash, Jennifer Schamel, Keith Cobbett

Town Administrator: Laura Buono

Planning Director: Robyn Payson

Planning Board: Susanne White

Chamber of Commerce: Amanda McDonald

Supt of Schools: Jennifer Crawford

Select Board: Rich Pelletier

Water/Sewer Dept: Dana Clow

Excused: Susanne White, Dana Clow

Public: None

Guest: Mike Tardiff, Sarah Hewitt

Chairman Richard Pelletier opened the meeting with introductions around the Board.

Minutes 5/20/26 Keith Cobbett made a motion to approve the minutes. Laura Buono seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mike Tardiff introduced CNHRPC's new planner Sarah Hewitt.

Henniker Street Update

Mike Tardiff told the Board that the 10-year plan was vetoed Henniker Street is out of the 10-year plan. He questioned if the House and Senate would be able to override the veto.

There was discussion about the out of state toll increase which was likely the reason for the veto.

Advertising Tax Incentives.

Mike Tardiff talked about promoting the 79E, ERZ and Commercial/Industrial Tax Incentive. He said there was a town that sent postcards to everyone who lived in the area and ask them if they want to learn more about this and then hold a workshop.

The ERZ's and the Commercial/Industrial Tax Incentive is Commercial throughout town. That is more of a separate workshop or at least advertised more widely vs the 79E which is a specific area. Those workshops would be at night.

Laura Buono suggested including the Chamber of Commerce.

Mike Tardiff suggested inviting the Chamber members.

Richard Pelletier suggested inviting the TIF as well.

Mike Tardiff said they should and have it be existing TIF and potential TIF. That would be part of the workshop for all things Commercial/Industrial.

There was further discussion about the 79E tax incentive.

Robyn will work on getting the most recent tax database to Mike.

Rich Pelletier brought up the impact of Water/Sewer on bringing business into town. He said shouldn't we try and mitigate that before we advertise the Tax Incentives?

Laura Buono said the Selectmen should discuss in a meeting on how to fund Water/Sewer projects.

Rich Pelletier said he thought the EDC should bring recommendations that would be reasonable to the Select Board.

Riche' Colcombe asked Laura Buono what projects she was referring to.

Laura Buono said the infiltration issue. That is something that the Board of Selectmen has discussed quite a bit. There is no sense in expanding a system that is already leaking. If we could continue the work on tightening up and there's already a plan in place, as far as where those sections are.

Riche' Colcombe said she is curious as to how much that has improved the numbers from the infiltration work that they did so that we have the new numbers of what is going into our treatment plant.

Laura Buono said she hasn't seen any of that. She said she would assume they would see the monthly differences.

Riche' Colcombe said maybe we can request what is the new capacity. There are problems unrelated to sewer capacity. It is how they are charging. The pub in the center failing had to do with Water/Sewer rates and charges. There are two separate issues.

Robyn Payson said Water/Sewer Commission makes a commitment to work with businesses and ensure they can come in. They have had no interest in looking at their fee structure when it comes to business coming in. Until there is a commitment from them this is spinning your wheels.

Laura said the word is negotiation. But Water/Sewer says they can negotiate but that does not mean they are going to get what they want.

Laura Buono suggested that addressing Water/Sewer be a separate meeting.

Mike Tardiff said that would be a great idea. He proposed night meetings for September and October for our workshops and then either meet at Water/Sewer or here

There was further discussion about Water/Sewer and their fees.

There was discussion about discussing Water/Sewer with the Commissioners.

Mike Tardiff suggested having a meeting later in the afternoon or evening.

There was discussion about scheduling these meetings.

Riche' asked if she could get the most recent infiltration report.

Mike Tardiff talked about getting the incentives on the website.

Riche Pelletier discussed a video promoting Hillsborough.

It was suggested that maybe the school could put it together.

There was discussion about developing a YouTube video highlighting Hillsborough.

Mike Tardiff said that would be a good idea.

There was discussion about putting together a video.

There will be meetings with Water/Sewer and 79E in September and Commercial/Industrial Tax incentives in October.

Riche' Colcombe shared a survey from Henniker and liked some of the questions. She suggested the next time we do a survey we can consider the questions they used.

There being no other business, Jennifer Schamel made a motion to adjourn. Riche' Colcombe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:54 am

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Payson, Planning Director