

Minutes of Economic Development Committee (EDC) meeting 7-26-18

Present: Ron Calabria, Jack MacKeen, Will Doyle, Andrew Scribner-MacLean, Lynda Thayer, Bill Nemser, Dick Downey. Absent: Sarah Cressy, Karen Freker, Jerry Culbert.

Guests: Linda Spear, Administrator, ArtSpace Maynard, Greg Johnson, new Maynard Town Administrator.

Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of July 12 – Dick, second, Will – unanimous approval.

Review of Mixed Use Position Paper draft

Comments: Important for emerging development, insure balance of retail and residential, discussion of specified % of retail on first floor. Bill Nemser cautions of danger of saturation of “wrong” type of businesses or services. Dick Downey indicates we need retail but that we should not over compensate. Andrew comments that rather than specify a % of retail we should allow the special permit Planning Board (PB) processes to decide. Jack indicates that we should not specify a % but should indicate to PB that a balance of retail and residential is needed. Jack asked for specific language to be forwarded from EDC team to Bill in order to finalize document.

Parking

In Jerry’s absence, Ron provided a summary of current status. Subcommittee had far-ranging discussion about goals of parking initiative. Statistical information from the Maynard Police Department (MPD) is not yet available. Meeting with MPD August 7 to see what data they collected during the initial pilot stage. Strong comments from several members about need for goals and metrics to be established.

Discover Maynard website

Will proposed and asked for approval to gather photos from various sources to post Maynard images on Discover Maynard page. Motion to approve; Dick. Second; Ron. Motion approved unanimously.

Wayfinding

- Dick reports Kiosks are delayed but moving forward.
- Decision that Emerson Hospital at Walgreens building not be included in latest map since they cannot commit to be in place by December.
- 20 maps left out of 5,000
- No observable map throw-aways
- Rail Trail almost ready to open
- Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approval complete (Andrew noted ARRT formal opening now scheduled for August 10 at South Acton train station)
- Dick reports that parking sign bids are out.
- Request to remove the River St. permit only sign removal made to Department of Public Works (DPW). DPW needs Andrew to authorize removal.

Linda Spear – ArtSpace Overview

Linda presented a very detailed overview of the ArtSpace presence and activities, with a full color handout which is included along with posted minutes.

There is a very diverse set of artists and mediums at ArtSpace. Artists teach at the Council on Aging (COA) and do community outreach and want to make more connections with the Community. Major part of Cultural District and an asset to Maynard. It was noted that rents are very affordable, building maintenance is financially difficult and staff has to be very hands on in keeping the building operating.

Admin Assistant

Jack asked for review of the draft list of responsibilities for the position in order to begin the process of hiring the part-time person.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM