



## **BOXBOROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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### **Meeting Minutes**

**Aug 6, 2020**

### **Zoom Meeting**

Members Present: Rich Guzzardi, John Neyland, Nate McKinley, Kristin Hilberg, Mark White and Dawn Willis.

Board/Committee Liaisons/Town Hall Staff also Present: Becky Neville, Fin Com, John Markiewicz Board of Selectmen, Simon Corson, Town Planner.

Absent: no one from EDC

Also in attendance: Other Community members joined the meeting, including Diane Lipari and Mark Barbadoro

Mr. Guzzardi called the meeting to order at 7:31PM.

#### **Meeting Minutes**

From July 16<sup>th</sup> EDC meeting, Partial Joint with Planning Board. Mark White motion to approve, Nate McKinley seconded. All approved through roll call vote.

#### **Correspondence / New Business**

- From Francine Nolte, to BOS and EDC Chair, suggests sustainability be included in UMass study and future charettes.
- From Hugh Miller, to Wes Folks and EDC. Encouraged by direction of EDC. Made three suggestions.
- MicroEnterprise Grant, was not accepted, heard from Acton.
- From Cheryl Mahoney, noted that The Boxborough Regency offered up heat relief for our meetings and residence.
- From Rich Guzzardi, Cisco is selling the Beaver Brook campus, with intention to lease back building 300. They have a realtor involved, Jones, Lang, Lasalle
- From Rich Guzzardi, UMass voice over video presentations 2,3, and 4.

- From Rich Guzzardi, Nagog Woods Property being developed into business/industrial space.
- From Scott Brown, input on our sharing of the Ferris Development Ads, including a video that he shared developed by Marlboro Economic Development.

### **Cisco Beaver Brook (Rich)**

- Changing, selling or closing 70 properties across the companies holdings.
- They are taking a loss with the intent to sell within the year. On Boxborough's tax log for \$55m
- They plan to stay in one building as a lease (Building 300, which contains their high density lab).
- Jones, Lang, Lasalle (JLL) is the broker and we are looking to meet with JLL to determine how the town might cooperate with them on the sale of the property. An Advisory Committee to the Town Administrator has been formed to help guide discussions. John Markiewicz, Cindy Markowitz and Rich Guzzardi are on that committee.
- John Neyland asked if he is still a liaison to the Cisco Beaver Brook initiative based on discussion at a prior meeting. Rich spoke to his thoughts on how this advisory committee was quickly formed to address immediate meetings planned with Cisco and JLL, and that there would be another broader cross committee/board group formed to develop and implement plans, and that John Neyland should be the EDC liaison for that group.
- Discussion over whether we need to consider zoning changes for the Campus vs waiting for the potential purchaser to make requests for uses. Rich asked Simon if he could put out a synopsis on the restrictions for the property. Simon said he was planning on doing it already and plans on it. He will connect with Ryan on prioritizing it.
- Diane Lipari requested to speak, and wanted us to be prepared for a buyer to be interested in warehouse and residential use and expressed concern over the traffic and resource use that it entails. There was discussion by Kristin Hilberg and Becky Neville on the demands those uses would put on the town. It was also stated that the site can support more than what is there today. John Markiewicz stated that the site was originally laid out and approved to support 10 buildings and possible residential use.

### **Boxborough Departments Economic Development Meeting (Nate)**

- Nate, Simon Corson, Town Planner, and Jim Gureffe, Board of Health agent (Bentley, Code Enforcement Officer, was invited but unable to attend), had a meeting, and discussed three new business trying to come into the town. It was proposed that this approach supports getting all town people involved in the process together for a single meeting to discuss each business together as opposed to one by one.
- More to follow on this process, and the specific applicants.

### **UMASS Study Update (Simon)**

- Simon speaks to coming up with two event times to share the UMass info with the town. He is also the Liason with Dr. John Mullin to get feedback to the EDC. Simon was working to get Dr. Mullin to attend our meeting on August 20th to discuss the charrettes planned for September. Rich G, suggesting Sept 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> for 2, Two hours community sessions. Discussion continued by Mark White, asking if it made more sense to have more time in between the two sessions. Rich said that the original plan was only one Charette and that UMASS is accommodating us to conduct two. Simon will discuss the proposed dates and schedule with UMASS.

- Kristin H. and Dawn W. will work together to clean up the website info on the town site for the UMass info and to orchestrate how to drive the community to the site and attending the info meetings.

### **Action Items**

- Doing Business in Boxborough Guide, Simon C. working with Nate M. Expect to outbrief at August 20th meeting

- Business Engagement (John Neyland

John and Rich discussed ramping back up business engagement in town. Rich indicated that there are many micro-enterprises that getting a better sense of the economic activity is important. John agreed and said that he could do that. Track the businesses interested in moving into the community.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Rich recommended meeting twice a month given everything going on. There was consensus to that schedule. Next meetings will be Aug 20th, Sep 3rd, Sep 17th.

Rich asked for a motion to adjourn. John Neyland motioned to adjourn at 8:51, and seconded by Kristin Hilberg. All voted in favor through role call vote.

### **Exhibits**

Minutes from meeting dated July 16, 2020

Email from Francine Nolde

Email from Hugh Fortmiller

Email from Cheryl Mahoney on the Boxborough Regency