

Town of Bolton
Economic Development Committee (EDC)
Minutes to EDC Meeting
Monday March 29, 2010
Town Hall, Bolton
Draft

Attendees:

Helene Demmer, Stephen George, John Karlon, Chris Nelson, Reta Rupich	
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Not Present EDC members : Lysa Miller, James Riseborough, Eileen Schomp, Bruce Slater

Not Present NON-EDC members: Jennifer Atwood Burney

Next meeting: April 12, 7:30pm Town Hall Board of Selectman (BOS) candidates to attend

Minutes

- **First order of Business, administrative follow-up:**
 - Three members (Helene Demmer, Stephen George and Chris Nelson) from EDC attended the Bolton Board of Selectman's (BOS) meeting on March 25, discussing whether the BOS should bring the issue of incremental meals/hotel tax to Town Meeting – both Helene Demmer and Chris Nelson voiced opinions opposing implementing the tax – BOS voted 2 to 1 not to bring it to Town Meeting.
 - Again, Dan Weadock will not officially serve on EDC
 - Discussed Ray Grenier's e-mail about not serving on EDC, particularly not wanting to be in the real estate business. Thought about different approaches to serving on the EDC, especially stating that members do not have to partake in all activities – interviewing businesses/realtors is a small piece of what the goals of the EDC will be.
 - Reta Rupich will be on the EDC until May, when she runs for and begins her role on the school committee.
 - Looking for additional members to fill the two empty slots on EDC – Dina Mazzola is interested
 - John Karlon filled us in on Planning Board status:
 - Bruce Slater's Great Brook was granted a permit for limited business
 - Looks like the due diligence on the Smith Property was successful in understanding the clean up and looks like it will go through – leading to the Grant discussion
 - Chris did make contact with Brian Smith in Harvard
 - Interested in seeing what Bolton was doing with its EDC, they, Harvard has not established an EDC as of yet.

- **Grants**
 - Steve George to determine a first pass on which grants should be ones businesses can apply-for, especially brownfield site clean-ups, which would aid The Smith Property
 - Reta Rupich to read through the grants and summarize for assistance to Steve George
 - Steve will make his recommendations and then businesses can apply for those grants on an as needed basis
 - **Report out on interviews with businesses:**
 - Chris Nelson interviewed the Bolton Office Park, owned and run by Jeff O’Neil and Mark McClean: HQ’d in Quincy, MA and Bolton Office Park is their only Bolton Location.
 - 40+ acres behind, not sure what they will do with the land
 - No amenities in building (i.e. cafeteria,etc), no shared space
 - Will put floor plans and pictures on website
 - Chris to help/point Bolton Office Park get listed on MassEcon – which will help list the space and get marketing access to a broader audience
 - Excited about having EDC to work with
 - Helene Demmer interviewed Debbie Plante, owner of The Salt Box, which is currently for sale and tenants are “tenants at will” with a 90 day notification.
 - Helene characterized that Debbie feels like an island in the Bolton Business community, not really sure what any other businesses are doing.
 - Debbie would love to have some informational package/brochure to give to her realty company talking about the efforts in the town to encourage business, this may help buyers see potential in Bolton
 - People who have been interested in purchasing the Salt Box feel there is little draw to Bolton - just a pass through town and don't know how they can get people to stop, even though there is The International and The Winery
 - Would love some sort of visitor center - since she gets many people stopping by wanting directions, inquiring about local restaurants (only J's and roadhouse), and needing a bathroom
 - All potential buyers are filtered through Parson’s realty – and she is encouraged to find out about the progress of the Smith Property
- Action – for questionnaire**
- Helene to send the detailed questionnaire to Chris and will meet with Parson’s realty, as well as some of Debbie’s tenants.

- **EDC Website Development:**
 - Lysa Miller needed a slogan and logo to continue production:
 - SLOGAN: based on the returns of voting via Chris Nelson, the most popular slogan for the EDC Website turned out to be:
DESTINATION BOLTON
 - LOGO: Lysa will be using a piece of the Town of Bolton's Flag Helene Demmer had forwarded to the group.
 - LOOK AND FEEL, Lysa will be using the pictures Helene was able to get from The First Parish of Bolton's Calendar, electronically being provided by the Church's calendar committee
 - Lysa Miller will be presenting a prototype of the look and feel of the website at the April 12 Meeting