

Minutes  
Economic Development Committee  
Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Present: Kevin McLaughlin; Todd MacGregor, Bob Espindola, Wayne Hayward, John Seed, Bernie Roderick, and Eddie Lopez

Ex-officio Members Present: William Roth and Mark Rees

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** September 19, 2017 – Wayne Hayward made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Bob Espindola. The motion passed unanimously.

**Review Economic Development Plan in Master Plan Study:**

William Roth reviewed the three documents that each member received.

Robert Espindola had questions on the financial piece of the tasks. He asked if their current Economic Development Consultant, FXM could be tasked on how much a few of the tasks would amount to financially so that they could get a jump start on tasks in the immediate future, versus waiting six to eight months.

William Roth reviewed that possibility with the Committee, stating that if there was a task that the Committee particularly had a strong interest in that perhaps they could have that discussion now with FXM to prioritize that particular task and gain more information on what it may look like to implement with cost.

A discussion regarding non profit business and tax exempt situations were had.

A discussion regarding the Master Plans Public Hearing on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, was had. Mr. Hayward stated there may be a joint venture with other Towns/Cities that could be looked at strategically, and for members to keep that in mind. He encouraged all members to attend and talk to the VHB Consultants at the hearing.

In review of the documents, Kevin McLaughlin expressed concern overall with the statistical information that was presented. He wasn't sure that the numbers reflect Fairhaven accurately. He referred to a few pages in the document. Specifically, pages 48-"Fishing related Jobs", he believes the numbers listed are incorrect and that there are more jobs than the document reads. He also reflected on what the data provided as a "Top Employer" and how they achieved that title, if in fact the numbers don't reflect Fairhaven correctly.

Mr. Roth stated the data was listed from two different sources, but he will ask VHB to reference the information and look into it in detail.

Mr. McLaughlin had a few questions around statements in the document, such as page 59, Goal #5 – "Harbor Plan Update?" Mr. McLaughlin asked if there was a pending harbor plan update.

Mr. Roth said not at this time; however, the Town and City will be seeking funding for Seaport Council for a plan update.

Mr. McLaughlin asked what it means when it read, "coordinate closely with Army Corp of Engineers on Permitting," Mr. Roth wrote that down to have clarified.

Also, Mr. McLaughlin asked that "Upcoming Fairhaven/New Bedford Bridge", perhaps be worded as "future".

Eddie Lopez asked about the Southcoast Rail being mentioned in the documents.

Mr. Roth stated that it was not necessarily in the "Economic Development" part of the Master Plan but is mentioned in other sections.

Discussion ensued.

**Committee Member's Discussion Items:**

Eddie Lopez – Vacancy Outreach

Mr. Lopez inquired about an actual process being in place to be pro-active with business owners when there is a vacancy; to be a resource with them.

William Roth stated that once plans are adopted the implementation agent can take it among themselves to move the plan forwarded.

Discussion ensued about working with smaller businesses, focusing on their needs.

In other business, Mr. McLaughlin asked members who haven't sent the five business names for review to him and Mr. Roth to do so as soon as possible. Mr. Roth stated all but two had sent the names, however Mr. McLaughlin had not received those names and asked they be sent to him as well.

The next meeting they will meet with FXM with an update. Mark Rees and William Roth will contact FXM to find out when they would be ready with their first draft presentation and coordinate dates with the chair.

Wayne Hayward made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by John Seed. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Documents reviewed:

1. Master Plan Summary, Goals & Visions Section and Economic Development Section

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A. Pacella  
Recording Secretary