

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Memorial Town Hall
Third Floor Meeting Room
6/8/09
7:00 PM

Selectmen Present: Philip Trapani, Chairman; Evan O'Reilly; Gary Fowler; Stephen Smith, Clerk; C. David Surface

Others Present: Stephen Delaney, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant; Economic Development Committee

Absent:

Call to Order

Mr. Trapani called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Mr. Trapani stated that the High School Graduation was this past weekend and he congratulated all the Graduates.

Mr. Trapani congratulated the Boy's Baseball team on their Division win.

Farmer's Market Update-Jim Lacey

Mr. Lacey handed out a flyer and stated that they plan to hold the Farmer's Market on Saturday's starting on July 11, from 9-11AM in the Park & Ride Lot. He stated that this is to bring people to the downtown. He stated that they already have 8-10 vendors signed up to sell items.

Mr. Trapani stated that he thinks this is a great idea. He stated that the board would grant permission to use the Park & Ride Lot. He asked if anything they can do to help advertise. Mr. Fowler asked about ice cream & hot dog vendors from out of town. Mr. Lacey stated that they will have community groups selling these items.

Economic Development Committee Strategic Plan Presentation

Economic Development Presentation

Mr. Trapani gave an introduction of the committee.

Ted Kottcamp, Chairman; Nick Cracknell; Tillie Evangelista; Derek Olsen; Paul Pagliarulo; and Jim Lacey and they have one opening. He explained that tonight they wanted to have departments present to see where the committee is heading and get feedback from the community. Ted Kottcamp stated that this is a long range plan and wants everyone to understand this. He stated that they have long, medium, and short goals.

Mr. Kottcamp presented a PowerPoint presentation.

Q & A

Ed Desjardin asked why so many retail shops are closed in Town. Mr. Lacey stated that this is a state of the economic times. He stated that the Georgetown Alliance is trying to get people downtown. Mr. Trapani stated that part of the issue is the lack of traffic and safety issues downtown. He stated that there has been a decline in community pride and he is seeing a resurgence of pride in the town. Mr. Surface stated that he has heard that the rents are high downtown.

Terry Wiggin, School Business Manager stated that the Schools are happy to see the Economic Development Plan and would help in any way.

Harry LaCortiglia asked about the high rents and if 40R did pass it would allow use to change in some buildings. He stated that this would allow business owners to maybe have rents upstairs and maybe reduce rents on first floor. Mr. Surface stated that they need to have a financial plan to help businesses start up.

Mr. Trapani stated that tools and resources are MoBD and MVPC. He asked what the committee needs from the Town Departments.

Mr. Cracknell stated that in 43D it states that Planning, ZBA, and ConCom have to get together to streamline permits and they need to move this forward. He stated that the plan calls for 120 days to move plans forward through all boards. Mr. Trapani asked what the committee needs from these departments. Mr. Cracknell stated that they have to meet and come up with a process.

Mr. Kottcamp stated that they need to get the word out and communicate to the Town their plans. Ms. Evangelista stated that the miss information out there is detrimental to a plan. Mr. Trapani asked what miss information. Ms. Evangelista stated that the plan will change the town. She stated that they need to get the true facts out to the residents. Mr. Trapani stated that he wants to know if this is a good forum and how they want to get the word out.

Chief Mulligan stated that diversity is needed. He stated that there are news forums like Zip Trip on Fox News, and the Merrimack Magazine that they could advertize in.

Sharon Freeman asked about 40R how it affects residents and homeowners in the area. Nick Cracknell explained that the district only included commercial only properties.

Wayne Snow, Light Department Manager stated that there has been a good job done by the committee. He stated that one third of commercial electric has diminished.

Steve Pryjenski, ConCom Agent stated that they are open minded and has not as of yet heard what the ConCom can do to help. He likes that they want to keep the look of the Town. He stated that the stormwater, wastewater, and drinking water are an issue in Town. He stated that he is not speaking for the board. Carl Shreder, ConCom Chairman stated that water is an issue. Mr. Trapani stated that they need to know these issues and

he stated to get 4-5 businesses in Town over the next few years would be great. Paul Nelson stated that they need to go either for the downtown or commercial. Mr. Kottcamp stated that they want to keep the businesses that are here now.

Gary Fowler stated long term not sure that they are going in the right direction and 40R does not know why bring back so soon to Town Meeting. He stated that he does not want to see change. Mr. Pagliarulo asked what he means by change. Mr. Fowler stated that tax base is an issue and that they are still going to need services, police, fire, etc. Mr. Trapani stated that they are trying to bring Georgetown back to what it was not change. Mr. Fowler stated that in the past woodworking was big in town and then antiques. He stated that you cannot predict what will come. He stated he likes Amesbury downtown. Mr. Cracknell discussed what was in the downtown in the past. He stated that they had residential units above and once they went out they cannot bring them back because of Zoning and wastewater issues.

Mr. Smith stated that the committee has done a great job bringing the strategic plan together and this has brought good questions. He stated come back with what you need and there is a lot of support out there. Resident stated residents want Cressy's back they do not want to drive to Target.

Mr. Trapani stated that the Traffic Committee has been working on some changes for the downtown. Ms. Freeman, Chair Traffic Committee stated that they do not know how to go forward. Mr. Trapani stated that the traffic is an important issue. Ms. Freeman stated that there is a lot of parking but not a strategic plan to use it. Ms. Evangelista stated that when Dunkin Donuts came to town there were a lot of residents who were against it and that people still go to their traditional breakfast spots. Mr. Surface stated that 43R is a tool. He stated change is going to happen and we still have control on what will go there.

Mr. Cracknell explained the incentives and the bylaw and how it would give the town control of what goes in and that it has to stay within the character of the Town. He stated that the \$75,000 could be used for the wastewater issues in the downtown. Mr. Smith stated that they need a way for residents to ask questions by email, etc.

Mr. Trapani thanked all who attended this evening.

Mr. Smith moved to adjourn. Mr. Surface seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved July 13, 2009.