

Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, July 12, 2011 7:00 PM  
Old Library, 5 Fairbank St., Harvard, MA

MINUTES

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Members Present: Rich Maiore, Chairman, Al Combs, Elaine Lazarus, Bruce Stamski, Jim Stevens

- **Minutes**

The Minutes of the June 15, 2011 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

- **Five Year Strategies and Objectives**

Mr. Maiore explained the Board of Selectmen's request for each board and committee to identify five year goals and strategies, due in early September. The Committee discussed its overall mission to expand the nonresidential tax base in the Commercial District. The Committee discussed ways to do that, including items contained in its mission statement and the 2010 EDAT report. The Committee discussed creating and maintaining an environment that facilitates the growth of local businesses, which would include forging liaisons and strong communication between businesses and the town, educating town officials, and creating a page on the Town web site with information for businesses. It was noted that working with the Planning Board on possible zoning changes would also be important to accomplish, and the possibility of hiring a town planner or using a consultant to assist with this was discussed. The Committee noted that one of its objectives should be to look at the town's planning and permitting infrastructure, to make sure it works well and addresses the issues that the businesses have raised.

The objective of developing infrastructure in the C district was discussed. It was noted that sewer and water would be important to address first, with traffic to follow when more is known about the level of development that needs to be planned and designed for. The potential need to identify specific development/target areas when sewer and water is planned was discussed.

It was also noted that in a few years, the Committee may wish to discuss with the Board of Selectmen the possible expansion of the mission of the Committee to include the entire Town. It was noted that there are businesses located outside the C district that are also an important part of the local economy.

Adjourned: 8:25 PM

Documents used at the meeting:

- Draft Minutes of the June 15, 2011 meeting
- Powerpoint presentation entitled "Town of Harvard 5-Year Strategic Planning Initiative; All-Boards Meeting June 14, 2011"

Submitted by: Elaine Lazarus