

Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, February 19, 2013 7:00 PM
Old Library, 5 Fairbank St., Harvard, MA

MINUTES

Members Present: Elaine Lazarus, Chairman, Sandy Chapman, Jim Stevens
Members Absent: Rich Maiore

Others Present: Bill Johnson, Board of Selectmen Liaison

The Committee reviewed the comments and recommendations made at the public forum in January, and how to incorporate the additional information and questions into the grocery store White Paper.

The Committee reviewed the draft White Paper, including draft recommendations. Mr. Chapman suggested a recommendation which proposes to send out an RFI to developers, seeking to generate interest in developing property on Ayer Road. He suggested including two scenarios: 1) development under current zoning; and 2) development under different regulations/parameters. The Committee discussed the idea. Mr. Stamski noted that some property owners might already have conceptual plans or ideas, and suggested that a letter to them might yield good responses. After discussion, the Committee decided to include a recommendation in the White Paper relative to sending out a letter to property owners seeking development ideas, suggestions and recommendations. The Committee discussed how visual representations of different development scenarios would help to determine whether the current zoning provides enough protection to abutters, or if there should be changes.

The Committee discussed its support of a Town Planner position, as contained in its 5 year goals and strategies prepared for the Board of the Selectmen for the last two years. It was the consensus that the Committee would support creation of the position and authorized the preparation of a letter or statement in support for town meeting as needed.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the meeting on October 9, 2012.

Adjourned: 8:30 PM

Submitted by Elaine Lazarus

Approved: September 16, 2013

Documents used at the meeting:

Meeting agenda

Draft Minutes of the EDC meeting on 10/9/13

Document entitled "A Grocery Store for Harvard", Economic Development Committee, March, 2013