

Town of Harvard Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, October 24th, 2014 7:00 PM
Old Library, 7 Fairbank St., Harvard, MA

MINUTES

Members present: Rich Maiore, Chairman, Peter Warren, Duncan Chapman

Members absent: Elaine Lazarus

1. Grocery Store By-Law Discussion

Mr. Maiore and Warren brought Mr. Chapman up to date on the Committee's discussion at last EDC meeting regarding the Grocery Store by-law and feedback at and since the Town Forum. Mr. Chapman expressed his belief the committee should move forward with by-law change. Mr. Warren agreed. Mr. Maiore expressed his belief that it would not likely achieve 2/3 vote needed at Town Meeting and would be a distraction for the committee over the next several months leading up to Town Meeting. The committee agreed it was deadlocked and in the absence of a majority would not move forward with proposed by-law change.

2. Economic Development Plan

Mr. Maiore expressed his desire for EDC to develop a clear, concise economic development vision and plan for C-District based on findings from EDAT work and current Master Plan Steering Committee. The committee agreed this was a good next step. Mr. Chapman stated the need for greater support and commitment from BOS and Planning Board towards the goal of Harvard being business friendly. The committee agreed that lack of clear direction and input from BOS and Planning Board is a challenge. Mr. Chapman suggested a joint meeting to raise these issues and determine if EDC should continue given the lack of support and leadership from BOS and PB. The Committee agreed this should be raised to Board liaisons and ultimately BOS and PB chairs.

Mr. Maiore suggested that once the Master Plan final report is delivered, EDC engage BOS and Planning Board to discuss findings and recommendations specifically to C-District and gain their input and commitment to support EDC better moving forward.

Adjourned: 8:00 PM

Minutes drafted by Rich Maiore, Chairman