

Submitted by Sarah Cressy on 10.21.15

Minutes of 9/29/15 Hudson Economic Development Commission Meeting, 7:30 pm.

3rd Floor Conference Room, Hudson Town Hall.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm.

Members present: Tom Davis, Hugh Gardner, Don Garcia, Sarah Cressy, Michael DiBona & Bill Sullivan.

Others present: Chuck Randall (Guest) & Jack Hunter (Director of Planning & Community Development)

Members absent: Mike DiBona, Chris Tibbals & Matt Tucker

Planning & Community Development Dept. Reorganization

Hunter reported that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) approved reorganization of the Planning & Community Development Dept. as follows—Hunter will hire an Asst. Director who will focus on economic development and a planner that will assume conservation management. The position for the Asst. Director has been posted. Hunter has contracted Kerin Shea, through The Ciccolo Group, to assist until staffing is secured. Garcia asked Hunter if he had any recommendations for Hudson. At present, Hunter’s primary recommendation is to work toward a shorter commercial/industrial property (CIP) permitting process. Hunter mentioned that the average permitting cycle for Hudson is 6-7 months, while Carver, where he previously worked, had a 6-8 week permitting process. Consensus was that a shorter permitting cycle creates a more favorable business environment.

Old Business: Downtown Advertising

Benderson Development (Highland Commons) donated \$5K to the Town of Hudson for a Restaurant Marketing Program, as part of the negotiations with Highland Commons for Hudson to petition for additional liquor licenses. The Town is in receipt of these funds, but the BOS have not yet accepted the donation. Additionally, the FY15 EDC Budget had approved an additional \$3500 to augment this program. However, due to the fact that funds weren’t utilized in FY15, those funds are no longer available, and a new request would need to be submitted. Cressy suggested that the Town might want to utilize an outside contractor to create this program, however Garcia disagreed, and felt that the program should be managed by the Town.

Town Updates

The last Town Meeting allocated \$15,000 for **downtown parking** improvements. It was suggested that perhaps the \$5K from Benderson could augment those funds?

The **Washington St. Bridge Project** is at the 100% design stage. It is anticipated that the project will begin in April, and that there’ll be complete closure for 90 days, most likely during the summer.

The Town has received a proposal to purchase **173 Washington St.** (former Bonazzoli Property). At present, the Town is reviewing access and egress to and from the site.

Recently, Young visited **Intel** and met with Ann Hurd. Intel has begun the 2 year process to remove equipment, chemicals, and demolish the former manufacturing plant. At present, Intel does not intend to sell the land.

With funds from Benderson, a **rotary** study was completed. Three rotary improvement suggestions were made, of which one did not include the elimination of parking at the rotary. Recently, a trial to simulate a round-a-bout was exercised by the DPW. However, none of these recommendations are part of the Main St. Renovation and Resurfacing Project.

Meeting unanimously adjourned at 8:45 pm.