

Jaffrey Economic Development Council

Draft Minutes 02/25/2015

9:00 am Town Office

Present: Bill Schofield, Chair, Cathy Furze, Sam Hackler, Don MacIsaac, Melanie McDonald

Staff: Jo Anne Carr

Guest: Peter Davis

1. Introductions

Pete Davis joined the EDC meeting and expressed interest in being appointed to the Council. Members introduced themselves and there was a brief roundup of projects since he was last on the EDC. Jo Anne will ask the Selectmen to approve of the appointment at their next meeting.

2. EDC Budget and FY 2015 Projects

Downtown Landscaping: TEAM Jaffrey had asked for some support for the Design Committee for the annual spring and fall cleanup/landscaping activities. Funding has been approved through the TIFD and the sites have been added to the Town's landscaping contract. Melanie will have to coordinate with DPW for scheduling.

Buddies Monument & Gold Star Mothers: Funding was included in this year's DT TIFD budget for restoration work on these memorials. A conservator was brought in last year to estimate the cost and a contract for services was executed. Work is anticipated for late June/early July. As this is a busy time of year for the Common, care should be taken to work together and emphasize the positive impact the restoration will have. Melanie suggested we coordinate with the American Legion and VFW for a rededication in the Fall – perhaps Veteran's Day?

Signage: We have sufficient funding for a sign to be installed for the Stone Arch Bridge District. Jo Anne will work with the vendor to have a draft presented to the EDC. Sam offered that additional signage by the Drumlin Industrial Park would be good marketing and good for businesses there. We'll have to wait for support as there is limited budget for this kind of project in the EDC account. As the Downtown Traffic improvement project is moving forward, the plan is to wait until a bit later in the DOT process before attempting a sign plan for Downtown.

Lighting: Improvements should continue. Jo Anne will work with downtown stakeholders to identify targeted areas for additional lighting. The Blake Street Parking lot was noted in particular.

Traffic and Pedestrian Improvements: The Town did not receive grant funding for the proposal to repair/reconstruct the sidewalks along Peterborough Street and Stratton Road, and improve the Rail Trail connection. However, funding has been reserved from the DT TIFD to begin preliminary survey and engineering work. Jo Anne will ensure the procurement process complies with the DOT program in case another opportunity for grants arises.

Downtown Traffic Enhancements: The project consultant and DOT are drafting a proposed scope of services and fee for the project. The firm, VHB has outlined an inclusive public participation program which is critical to the success of the project. The contract is expected to be signed by the Governor and Executive Council late April/early May. Jo Anne will draft a letter to Councilor Wheeler inviting an opportunity for an update and refresher on the project.

3. Town Meeting

Jo Anne distributed the Warrant for Town Meeting noting that two articles in particular are of interest to the EDC. These are the combined Town Office Project and the potential lease agreement for the Community Center at the land where Community Field sits.

4. Status reports

The Black Squirrel shop has closed on Main Street and is moving to Keene Colony Mill Marketplace and a new shop has opened in the Abbott building. The new business is a “Vape” store selling electronic devices for an alternative to tobacco cigarettes. The store also sells flavored juices for use with the devices. Jo Anne and Rob Deschenes have met with the store’s owner, and he will submit a letter to the Town describing the business activities and hours. This is an allowed use and not subject to state or federal regulation.

5. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: March 25, 2015