



Town of Sturbridge
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Sturbridge Economic Development Advisory Committee

Minutes of January 26, 2012, EDAC Meeting

Present:

Members:

Heather Hendrick (HH) -Chairman; Sherri Pelski (SP) – Vice Chairman; David Holland (DH);
Kevin MacConnell (KM); Don Miller (DM) – Secretary

BOS Liaison:

A. Ellison

Guests:

S. Dalberth (Resident), S. Gibson-Quigley (Master Plan Implementation Committee)

1. Meeting called to order by HH at 6:03 P.M.
2. Quorum check - five members present = quorum
3. Discussion with Steve Dalberth about the Economic Development Chapter of the 2010 Master Plan

This was a long, very interesting and useful discussion, questions, answers, on information prepared by the Master Plan Economic Development Subcommittee - presented and explained by Steve, including sections on:

- (1) Situation Analysis
- (2) Key Issues Identified
 - a. Need for increased economic diversification (more than tourism)
 - b. Need for Increased focus on town centers
 - c. Need for development and focus on achievable brand identity and image
 - d. Need for proactive approach to future (economic) development

4. Economic Development coordinator / director job description information written up by S. Pelski based on committee inputs
 - >> action item: HH will follow up with S. Suhoski on status of job description he is preparing for this position

5. Discussion of BOS liaison position and procedure
 - DM has accepted S. Suhoski's recommendation and removed "BOS liaison-absent" from previous EDAC meeting minutes and will further discuss this matter with S.Suhoski as an individual resident. The EDAC is no longer involved.

6. Topics for Sturbridge Villager
 - >> action item: DH will prepare an article based on the information in the Master Plan –Economic Development Subcommittee, i.e., the information presented by S. Dalberth As described in agenda item 3. above.

7. Annual report requested by S. Suhoski
DH motion for HH to prepare report based on the article DH prepared for inclusion in Sturbridge Village
DM second
Vote: unanimous approval
 >> action item: HH to prepare annual report and submit to SH not later than Feb 10 due date.

8. Discuss property tax impact from Tractor Supply and Job Lot development s
DM reminded the committee that although the addition of Tractor Supply and Job Lot added approx. \$2M to the town's assessed valuations, it reduced property taxes by only 3cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. A 10% reduction in property taxes would require approximately \$112M in increased valuation from economic development . Is this realistic?

9. Meeting with Finance Committee
It was agreed that the EDAC should meet with the finance committee to emphasize the need to limit spending as much as possible in an attempt to limit additional property tax increases.
 >> action item: DM to contact K. Smith, FinCom Chairman, to request meeting

10. Compliance with Open Meeting Law
DM will ask the Town Clerk what is and what is not covered by the open meeting law, including the specific question of whether meeting with other committees or individuals to obtain information, not to conduct business nor to have deliberations, is subject to the open meeting law.

11. Goals for 2012
DM recommended that the EDAC establish some goals for 2012 consistent with its mission.
To be discussed at future meeting.

12. Next meeting - Wednesday, Feb 15, 2012, 6:00 P.M.

13. DM motion to adjourn, DH second
Vote: unanimous approval
Adjourned 8:20 P.M.

Don Miller
Secretary

Documents used in this meeting:

1. January 26, meeting agenda
2. EDAC meeting attendance record
3. Master Plan Economic Development Subcommittee -7 pages provided by S. Dalberth

Approved during February 15, 2012, EDAC meeting

Jan 27, 2012

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