

**TOWN OF EPSOM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
EPSOM TOWN OFFICES
MAY 7, 2019
5:30 PM
Draft Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Mike Tardiff, Cheryl Gilpatrick, Selectman Representative, Betsy Bosiak, Kathy Desroches, Bobbie Lynn Thomas

Meeting called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

Discussion:

The following items were discussed.

1. Cheryl discussed getting the EDC as a more formal Committee. It would be great to have members from the PB, ZB, public, and local businesses. She handed out the Charter for attendees to review. Mike expressed he would like to see the Committee have By-Laws, a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, etc. The Committee needs a Secretary to take minutes. For now Cheryl will send out meeting reminders each month and prepare agendas as well as do the minutes, until hopefully we can get more consistent members.
2. Mike and Cheryl review the status of the Revitalization Zones and discussion was made regarding the signs.
 - a. The need for additional signs were discussed. Cheryl explained that she brought the idea of getting a few more signs to the other BOS members. They were receptive but wanted an idea of where we were thinking of placing them before we order more, and if they agree it would be beneficial they would approve the expenditure. She also asked the BOS about possibly having the Highway Department help put the signs up and they agreed that would be a possibility as well.
 - b. Cheryl also updated the attendees that the posts would most likely be ordered through the Highway Department to obtain a lower cost in a larger bulk order. The costs will come out of the EDC budget.
 - c. Cheryl spoke with Robert Hyslop of the DOT Sign Department already to get the general idea of what they needed as far as guidelines to put the signs up. She noted there would be an application process and the State would need the coordinates/locations.
 - d. The attendees further discussed the signs and plotted their ideas on the Zone/District map. The already existing sign locations for welcoming businesses to Epsom, on Route 4 and Route 28, were also discussed. It was suggested that maybe we could coordinate the new signs with those already existing signs. Cheryl will get those coordinates and see where they are in comparison to what plots were put on the zoning/district poster.
 - e. The plots would only require two more signs and not three. One more for each of the Windymere and Bartlett Economic Revitalization Zones, so there are signs at the beginning of each zone going from either direction.

- f. It is the EDC's hope that this will prompt people to ask questions on what the zones/districts are and attract businesses to come to Epsom and benefit from what they have to offer. The third area will only need one sign – The Gossville Community Revitalization District.
3. The attendees then discussed the idea of how to promote these areas and the future of Epsom for bringing in businesses. Mike reviewed the initial plan of having some education sessions for property owners and businesses, especially about any new waterlines that are needed to help entice businesses to Epsom. Several ideas were discussed about how we can promote the zones/districts and their benefits.
 - a. Get an “abutters” list for all the businesses already existing on Route 4 or 28 that may already be in the ERZs and make sure they know what they may be missing in being in those zones. Betsy will help with getting these lists together.
 - b. Attendees suggested using the Library, Facebook, and see if businesses and other places around Epsom would be willing to promote and post information regarding these zones/districts. Bobbie Lynn will check into seeing if Realtors in the area would post any of the materials we put together, to help promote anyone looking to buy in Epsom.
 - c. Mike will draw up a letter and something to post on the Town's website regarding any information that would be useful for Businesses to know.
 - d. Cheryl will draft up a brochure using pictures of Businesses that are willing to let us do so (maybe we can get them to sponsor the brochure to offset the cost) and also add the info from the ‘poster.’
 - e. The idea is to have the letter, the web page and the brochure coordinated with the same info.
 - f. Bobbie Lynn suggested that we have this be a “Did You Know” type of campaign.
 - g. General Info: ERZ promotes short term credits on businesses profits tax.
 - h. ECRD: RSA 79-E promotes the BOS's ability to delay any increase in taxes for anyone in this District for five years.
4. The attendees briefly reviewed what is happening with the new water line coming in and when. The work is scheduled to start June 3rd. Cheryl has notified the BOS regarding the start date and hopes to schedule Peter Pitsas of Underwood engineering to review that schedule with the BOS. She has also informed the developer and engineer for the Aroma Joes/Liquor Store project that they need to contact the state in order to tie in.
5. The rest area on Route 4 was discussed. Mike would like to see that the Town pursue to see if the State will be, or is willing to, surplus it to the Town. Ideas of what to use it for were explored. Can we get a one-time access has been permitted by the State in the past for clean-up? Betsy will check with the State of NH and see what they intend to do with it.
6. Mike mentioned he would like to discuss the Suncook Valley Rail Trail Plan at some point.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Gilpatrick

Next Economic Development Meeting scheduled for June 4th at 5:30pm
Epsom Town Office Meeting Room. Meeting adjourned 6:45pm.