

Town of Waterboro

Economic Development Committee

Minutes

January 13, 2015

Call to Order: 3:06 PM, by Chairman Leo Binette. Present: Don Holden, Tim Folley and Susan Rocray, members; Lisa Hughes and Laurie Warchol, Ex-Officio Members. Also present: Sel. Dennis Abbott, 20/20 Chm. Bob Powers and guest: Sharon Abbott. Absent: John Wade, member.

Agenda Review and Acceptance: Don made the motion to accept the agenda as written. Sue seconded. Voted, passed.

Minutes: Don made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2014 meeting. Sue seconded. Voted, passed. (Note: Dec. 9, 2014 and Jan. 6, 2015 meetings were cancelled)

Correspondence: E-mail from Town Planner, Tom Ursia and Selectmen Dave Woodsome stating they would not be able to attend this meeting.

Announcements: None.

Old Business:

Economic Business Summit held Nov. 21, 2014 – Review of Draft Meeting Report provided by

Good Group Decisions: Leo reported that there was a good turnout for the Summit, discussion was great, with a lot of different viewpoints. Don felt that Good Group Decisions did a great job. EDC members are asked to review the Draft Meeting Report. The next step for the Committee will be to put action plans to work.

Committee Work Plan for 2015: Leo stated that the Work Plan can be completed after finalization of the Economic Development Comprehensive Plan Chapter has been completed. Other ideas for the Work Plan include, but are not limited to: visitations to Business Parks and solicitation of specific businesses to come to Waterboro, ie: funeral home.

Draft Economic Development Chapter for the Comprehensive Plan: 20/20 Chm. Bob Powers stated that his Committee is looking for a draft for the whole ED chapter as soon as possible, including an introduction to the chapter and a way to tie the Business Summit results into the chapter. The 20/20 Committee's goal is to have the Comprehensive Plan completed by May 1, 2015. He noted that Open Land Space and Future Land Use chapters also are near completion. To bring the new EDC members up to speed, Bob explained the work completed by the Comprehensive Plan committee and work done to date by the EDC for the ED Chapter.

Bob stated that in order to complete the ED Chapter, the 20/20 Committee requests that the EDC have their chapter formatted, include a written introduction, collection of data, visuals and a conclusion. He envisioned an outside agency would have input on putting the chapter together. 20/20 will do the action plans for the chapter. Discussion of the length and what needed to go into the introduction was held. The members agreed to meet the next 2 Wednesdays at 3 PM in Workshop Sessions to achieve that goal.

Dennis noted that there is no real summary or recommendations in the Business Summit Draft Meeting Report. Bob will talk to Leo. It was suggested that Leo also talk with Good Group Decisions in regard to a summary/recommendation and final report. Also, talk with Tom to work with Leo in providing an Introduction draft to the EC chapter.

Don stated it seems that whatever way you proceed, one runs into a barrier with our current town zoning and this needs to be addressed sooner than later. It was noted that the new CEO, Town Administrator, Planning Board, etc. have changes that they would like to see done to the Town's zoning.

Dennis stated that when the 20/20 Committee was started, the Board of Selectmen knew there was going to be a need for a hybrid committee. He suggests the makeup would be the Chairman's of all the town committees, to initiate and orchestrate the actions of the EDC, 20/20, etc. in the Comprehensive Plan. He will discuss this with the Board of Selectmen.

Bob noted that 20/20 just completed the Governance Chapter in which it is stated that different entities need to work together and give specific recommendations. Also the 20/20 committee has suggested that overall the zoning needs to be reviewed and revised. The Comprehensive Plan will be stand-alone Chapters, currently the Committee is working on overview/highlights and postscripts of items that have been completed to date. The Future Land Use Chapter should be completed by their January 26th. meeting.

Leo stated that what is needed is a good working relationship with committees and each committee should know where they stand. He agreed it would be good to have the Chairman's get together on a regular basis. Dennis stated that he will bring up the idea at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

New Business:

Current Economic Development Update: No report.

Discuss/vote on meeting dates and times for 2015: Discussion. Sue made the motion to hold the Economic Development Committees meeting on the 1st. Wed. of each month at 3 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Don seconded. Voted, passed.

General Discussion: None.

Adjourn: Don made the motion to adjourn at 4:10 PM. Sue seconded. Voted, passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Holden
Committee Secretary

Approved February 4, 1015

