

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room at the Town Offices. Present were: Chairman Timothy Vaill, T. Bradley Duffin, Marlene Hoyt, Andrea Leary, David Pierre, Jeffrey Spagat, and Jon Tucker; also present were: Senior Planner Lisa Schwarz, Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski, and Selectman Paul Salafia.

Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Duffin seconded by Ms. Leary, the Council voted to approve the February 5th minutes by a unanimous vote.

Parking Assessment

Andover Police Officer Glen Ota was introduced and has been working along with Lieutenant Guy and EDC members on the Parking Assessment Plan. The project has been delayed due to Planning Board Staff who have retired or on medical leave. GIS data needed to be in place to keep costs down before moving forward with the parking consultants. The project will now continue to progress with a Staff member working part-time and focus group kick-off meeting will be on March 24th at 8:30 a.m.

Goals of the program will include reviewing the downtown parking situation including supply/demand, employee parking program, signage, access, and any ways that the management of parking will encourage economic growth. A final presentation to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) is anticipated by end of June.

Discussion of Town Meeting 2015

EDC members discussed the issues and how to support the following Warrant Articles for this year's upcoming Town Meeting:

ID2: Minuteman Park and Dascomb Road are still working toward collecting the optimum combination of mixed-use retail, office and housing, to create a “live, work, play” area.

Historic Mill District: EDC is co-sponsoring this Article with the Planning Board for a Zoning Overlay. A joint meeting is planned for Tuesday March 10th at 7:00 p.m. in Doherty Auditorium followed by an update to the BOS the next week. A video showing why the Town needs the zoning overlay has been made along with the creation of a Facebook page with maps and photos providing a historical focus of the area. The Shawsheen River, Mills and Railroad Station have been included in a logo. A Question and Answer section has been added to the link on the Town website further explaining why the overlay is needed and if the Article is passed, the possible outcome of the overlay land use.

Outreach to all organizations is being conducted to provide the opportunity for community input first, followed by a plan for the land redevelopment, to be implemented according to the feedback that is given. Townspeople and student interns are featured in the video with conversations as to why the Overlay District should get approved. The historical focus is essential to preserving the Town culture.

Discussion continued with ideas on how to get voters to Town Meeting such as encouraging the 18-year old high school students to register to vote and come to Town Meeting as well as get business endorsements.

Discussion of Town Meeting 2015 (cont'd)

Medical Center or Clinic: Article P-41 requests more flexibility for allowing medical facilities or clinics to relocate to Andover. An EDC member will plan to speak in support of this Article at Town Meeting, and a statement of support can be written in the Town booklet description.

Sit-Down vs. Fast-Food: Article P-42 requests streamlined and predictable permitting. The “fast-food” wording cannot be changed for this year, so discussion continued whether or not to withdraw this Article to allow more time for proper wording.

Article P-47: To allow for more flexible use of space in the ID2 areas by amending the maximum to 4 vs. 3 stories in a 50 foot tall building. An EDC member will plan to speak in support of this Article at Town Meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.