

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, John Fenton, Andrea Leary, Steven Leed, and Jeffrey Spagat; also present were: Planning Director Paul Materazzo, Senior Planner Lisa Schwarz, and ABCA President Holly Nahabedian.

Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Leary seconded by Mr. Fenton, the Council voted to approve the April 16th minutes by a unanimous vote.

Town Meeting Recap

All EDC supported Articles passed. Having designated an EDC spokesperson expressing support for each Article was effective. Appreciation was expressed toward Mr. Materazzo, Ms. Schwarz, and all the volunteers for their hard work.

An observation was made that Town Meeting had a more congenial tone from prior years. Building a coalition of interested residents helps the Community Development and Planning Office to facilitate what the community wants, creating an environment where people feel included and where they want to be. Resident volunteer Steve Fink distributed a list of Contributors to the Andover Historic Mill District rezoning coalition.

A proposal has already been submitted on Dascomb Road as a result of allowing 4 vs. 3 stories to be built in a 50 foot building.

Plans to restore a mill building in the Shawsheen area are underway now that the zoning was changed from Industrial (IA) to General Business (GB).

Next steps for EDC on which to focus need to be determined. Creating a public/private partnership is important. Conducting a workshop which would be open to the public and include Town Administration was suggested for input. Perhaps invite a Somerville, MA administrator to speak at the next Andover Tomorrow series explaining successful growth in their town. An ad hoc task force will be formed to help create a framework for how to continue to move forward. Mr. Materazzo will work with volunteer citizens and bring recommendations to the next EDC meeting to help determine next steps.

Andover Historical Society Executive Director Elaine Clements explained benefits to creating a community calendar. The Townsman editor has a robust calendar site to help keep the community informed and will provide a forum to advertise organization and business events.

Town Manager Selection

Mr. Vaill is a member of the 5-person selection committee. He wants to express EDC's views of what priorities a Town Manager needs to understand, including the trends and challenges that Andover faces, so people want to live here. The Town Manager is like the CEO of the town, needs to be a leader who is comfortable working with the Selectmen and who can communicate in the Town's best interest. Some key qualities and experiences to look for in a candidate's resume are as follows:

Town Manager Selection (cont'd)

- Courage and conviction to make hard decisions for the Town – has a track record, reputation, past experience, demonstrated record of success in important decision making
- Visionary, leader, salesman
- Leadership skills, coalition building, conflict resolution
- Proven capabilities in successfully executed projects, comparable in scope to building the Historic Mill District
- Ability to address issues about the schools and budgets
- Demonstrate success in moving a controversial decision to a conclusion
- Administrative skills – see the big picture and complete necessary changes

An interim Town Manager will be appointed so ample time is allowed to find a qualified candidate.

New Membership

Current EDC members need to commit by June 30th whether or not they will remain on the Council. Discussion about new membership will continue at the June 3rd meeting.

Project Update

There are two current projects which were discussed, with a suggestion for EDC to create a one-page information sheet for each demonstrating the economic benefits to the Town.

- Sal Lupoli project will be brought before the Conservation Commission on June 2nd.
- 200 Units off River Road is proposed for a mix of garden-style apartments and cottages for a 62+ independent residential community. Transportation issues were briefly discussed and discussions will continue with respect to this type of population and proximity to Downtown. Additional housing helps to bring more business/commercial revenue.

A suggestion was made to have an EDC site tour of these areas.

Adjournment

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

Documents: List of Contributors to Andover Historic Mill District rezoning coalition