

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. in the 1st floor Conference Room at the Town Offices. Present were: Chairman Timothy Vaill, Shawn Carroll, T. Bradley Duffin, John Fenton, Marlene Hoyt, 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 Mr. Fenton seconded by Ms. Hoyt, the Council voted to approve the June 18th minutes by a unanimous vote.

Priorities for 2015

Mr. Vaill shared a letter from Ellen Keller from Ozzy Properties explaining that Ozzy Properties is donating a tent to allow EDC to have a presence at Andover Days on September 12th.

In addition to improved zoning and various projects, EDC has enhanced the mindset in Town regarding the need for smart economic growth. There are still challenges and opportunities to face such as:

- The need to do a better job marketing the Town (improve Town website)
- Permitting improvements still are needed (a suggestion was made to invite Town Staff members to a future EDC meeting to discuss ways to speed up permitting)
- Develop a more comprehensive plan for the Downtown including parking management improvements

Discussion continued about the need for business owners to understand the importance of how a mix of retailers impacts the economy. Desired companies and/or types of businesses should be identified and pursued. Connections between the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, Andover Chamber of Commerce, and the ABCA are important to be made and understood. Town funding may be available for marketing and EDC support.

Selection of Officers

Mr. Vaill has stepped down as EDC Chairman after serving the Council for over three years. Much appreciation and thanks for his service was expressed. A *Town of Andover Economic Development Council: Statement of Purpose* handout was distributed. Information about the EDC Mission, Key Components, and Membership should be helpful when deciding on a new Chairperson and new members. New members are needed who have diversity of thought, are interested in the well-being of the Town, and are interested in progress and development in a smart way. There was discussion about who should be the next Chairperson or Co-Chair. The Chairperson works closely with Selectman Alex Vispoli and contact with the new Town Manager will be important.

On a motion by Mr. Leed seconded by Ms. Leary, the Council voted to appoint John Fenton as the interim Chairman of EDC and T. Bradley Duffin as interim Vice-Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fenton will discuss this position with the Town Legal Counsel to ensure that there is not a conflict of interest.

Adjournment

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

Documents: *Town of Andover Economic Development Council: Statement of Purpose*