

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. in the 3rd floor Conference Room at the Town Offices. Present were: Interim Chairman T. Bradley Duffin, Evan Belansky, Mark DeCourcy, Marlene Hoyt, Christopher Joel, Michael Morris Jr., and Geoffrey Piva; also present were: Planning Director Paul Materazzo and Director of Business, Arts and Culture Ann Ormond.

Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Morris Jr. seconded by Ms. Hoyt, the Council voted to approve the December 21st minutes by unanimous vote.

On a motion by Mr. Morris Jr. seconded by Ms. Hoyt, the Council voted to approve the January 4th minutes. The motion passed with 4 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.

Priority Setting

Economic Development Council 2019 Agenda Setting 1/4/19 handout was distributed with an updated list of “Informational Topics” and “Actions” for Council members to vote on top 3 priorities. Council members saw overlap amongst the categories but voted on the following:

Informational Topics:

1. Master Plan Review (this could include Zoning Review (ID3) and what is “Net Economic Benefit”)
2. Annual review of key metrics (this could include business and resident listening tours and how it affects initiatives)
3. Town Finance Update

Actions:

1. Refresh Charter and Mission
2. Develop Public Awareness Strategy/Approach
3. Develop vivid description (“What Type of Economic Development is right for Andover”)

Ms. Ormond will collect input from absent Council members.

Council members want to gather information through Listening Tours and group updates in order to support projects moving forward and be able to create a one-page template outlining the economic benefits. A better understanding of the Town vision and how it ties into the Master Plan, and future liabilities and revenues is needed and will help in long-term planning.

Mr. Materazzo suggests taking a proactive role in the HMD and Dascomb Road projects, but Council members feel the need to gain background information to be in better position to support individual projects. These projects can be a sub-category of priorities listed above as EDC better understands their measurable economic impact.

Review and Approve Mission Statement

Council members discussed proposed revisions to the current EDC Mission Statement.

On a motion by Mr. Piva seconded by Mr. Morris Jr., the Council voted to approve the rewording of the Mission Statement by unanimous vote.

The revised statement (below) will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) for approval. Mr. Piva will represent EDC at the BOS meeting.

EDC Mission - the purpose of the Economic Development Council is to develop and implement a proactive short- and long-term economic development strategy that addresses issues relating to economic development, including the attraction of new business and business retention. This will be achieved by assessing the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in the partnership between the business community and Town Government, as well as reviewing and commenting upon proposed major public and private projects.

Other Business

Website: Doing Business in Andover handout was distributed and discussed regarding revisions to the EDC link on the Andover website. Proposed changes were positively received and some suggestions given including adding MVRTA information.

Historic Mill District (HMD): Mr. Morris Jr. gave an update from the January 8th HMD Task Force meeting that he attended as the EDC liaison. The Stantec Team was in attendance and charged with putting together an RFP with the Task Force to be presented at a Fall Town Meeting. Priorities and areas of concern were identified. Some highlights include: reconfiguration of Essex St. and Pearson St. intersection; reconfigure train stop – MBTA, Town and private developer to work together with consideration for parking/cost, and other issues; maintain character of neighborhood; ensure transition between HMD and River; Shawsheen Greenway/open space and connectivity with Downtown very important; opportunity for renewable energy.

Mr. Piva will speak on behalf of EDC at Town Meeting with respect to the HMD.

Mr. Materazzo emphasized the importance for EDC to understand the scope of the HMD project as well as Main Street and Dascomb Road and its economic impact in order to provide support.

Next Meetings

Feb. 8, Feb. 22, Mar. 8, Mar. 22

February meetings: 1st hour Listening Tour Speaker – HMD Task Force Chairman Charles Kendrick for one meeting and Town Manager Andrew Flanagan for other meeting. Second hour to be discussion of EDC actions (Mr. Joel will lead Feb. 8th discussion).

Possible March meetings to include Superintendent of Schools Shelley Berman, Executive from Town of Marlborough, Representative from Princeton Properties (proposed Shawsheen Village friendly 40B housing project) once they've gone before Housing Board.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Joel seconded by Mr. Piva, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Documents: *Doing Business in Andover* handout for website discussion
Economic Development Council 2019 Agenda Setting 1/4/19