

**BOARD/COMMITTEE:** Economic Development Committee  
**MEETING DATE:** August 19, 2021  
**TIME:** 7:30 PM  
**PLACE:** **Virtual Meeting** - this meeting was conducted via Remote Participation, pursuant to the Current Executive Order.

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm

Rich Guzzardi, John Neyland, Joe Ferguson and Kristin Hilberg were in attendance, as were Town Planner Simon Corson, Selectboard liaison John Markiewicz and FinCom liaison Becky Neville

### **Minutes**

The EDC reviewed meeting minutes from June 17, 2021: John Neyland moved, Kristin Hilberg seconded to approve as amended; roll call vote, unanimously approved.

### **Correspondence, New Business and Chairperson's Items**

- Nate McKinley has resigned, the board appreciates his service and hopes to see him around town
- The board discussed recruiting new members including the possibility of adding associate members
- John Markiewicz offered to announce the vacancy at the Aug 30<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting

### **Updates**

- Property Owner engagements
  - John Neyland reached out to the wholesale candy company looking at the property on Littleton County Road and reported that they decided not to come to Boxborough due to the need for special permits.
  - Mark White plans to speak with Jim Fenton when they can find a mutually agreeable time.
  - Rich Guzzardi spoke with Scott Brown from 1414 Mass Ave, they're busy getting their businesses up and running and will get in touch with us at a future date; he also spoke with Israel Lopez from the Gutierrez company about the future development on their property adjacent to the solar field. They're weighing their options relative to the wetlands and zoning bylaws.
- Cisco Beaver Brook
  - John Markiewicz updated the committee on an August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting he had with Campanelli regarding their water resources and their current building tenancy at Beaver Brook. They are cognizant of the town's concern about water conservancy and intend to work with us to develop a long-term plan.

### **Arranta Bio Site Plan Approval**

Rich Guzzardi gave a brief summary of their development/permitting public hearing process currently before the Planning Board. Many of the concerns from the Planning Board and citizen participants are related to biosafety, water and wastewater management. The EDC discussed the Planning Board's responsibility relative to their charter and the need to involve the Board of Health as needed to help facilitate answering these concerns.

Rich suggested the EDC put together a statement expressing EDC support. Kristin Hilberg offered to speak with the town assessor to determine the economic benefits this project will bring to the town. Apart from tax revenue, this could also include "economic spillover" from having 400 additional employees at 1414 Mass Ave. spending money in town (gas, sundries, services) as well as "economic leakage" to contiguous towns for the services the town currently doesn't possess.

The committee intends to reach out to the Planning Board to ask how we can help answer questions and concerns within our purview.

### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds**

Rich reviewed the ARPA Fund guidelines with the EDC as well as some ideas on how to implement the grants. He has been working with the Assistant Town Administrator to develop various scenarios. Rich, Kristin and Joe will work on the application and will bring it back to the EDC at the September 1 meeting.

John Markiewicz suggested the EDC team with the Water Resources Committee to request ARPA funds for a water study and the board agreed this was a good idea. The board agrees it makes good sense to find ways to collaborate with other boards and commissions.

Joe Ferguson left the meeting at 9:20.

Discussion continued regarding the ARPA application mechanics; meeting adjourned at 9:24.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- September 1<sup>st</sup>
- September 16<sup>th</sup>
- October 21<sup>st</sup>