

Economic Development Committee

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

PLACE OF MEETING: Town Hall for Members & remotely via Zoom for the Public

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 6:30 PM

MEETING TYPE: Economic Development Committee

Chair's Welcome and Media Notification:

Ms. Melanson called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Quorum and Attendance:

Present in Town Hall for this meeting: Cathy Melanson, Chair, Patrick Carr, Karyn Ferreira, John Hinds, Nils Isaksen

Arrived during the meeting: Keith Silva

Not present for this meeting: None.

Also present for this meeting: Recording Secretary, Stephanie Fidalgo

Review and Approve minutes of the July 18, 2024 meetings:

Mr. Carr made a motion to approve the minutes of July 18, 2024, and was seconded by Ms. Ferreira. The motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence for this meeting.

Recent and Upcoming Ribbon Cutting Events:

Ms. Melanson spoke favorable on the Ribbon Cutting event at Marisol's Café on September 11, 2024. She noted that it was the first version of the café with a drive-through and was open 6AM – 7PM. (Secretary's Note: Currently, Sunday hours are 7AM – 7PM)

The Committee was planning future ribbon cutting events at YogaGuru at 152 Huttleston Ave and Hanami Tea House & Lounge at 358 Main Street in Benoit Square.

Local New and Potential Businesses:

Ms. Melanson didn't know of any new local businesses, but noted that Starbucks would be opening in November and Burlington had just opened in Fairhaven Commons.

Review of the August 15, 2024 After Hours Business Event:

While there had been a small number of people present at the event, the Committee had been quite pleased to meet with Chris Vasconcelos of Harborside Rope Works and share his recent feature on Chronicle on the Town social media accounts. Ms. Melanson also noted the upcoming Phantom Gourmet feature of Traveler's Alehouse.

The Committee was working on creating a business listing brochure with the assistance of the Planning Department. The Committee hoped to see more owners in attendance in the future.

Planning for the next After Hours Business Event:

Ms. Melanson recommended November 21, 2024 as the date for the next event. The Committee held an informal straw poll and all agreed on the date. The start time would again be 5:30 PM. A few weeks ahead of the event, an email invitation would be sent out to the local business owners.

Networking and Business Presentation:

Ms. Sue Masten of the Planning Department had worked with Mr. Hinds on working on categorizing all of the businesses in Town for brochures and listings.

Mr. Hinds then suggested sending out an email newsletter to recruit more business owners to participate in building a committee to organize more business-to-business communications and offerings between local businesses.

Mr. Silva arrived at 6:45 PM.

As a follow-up to the EDC Business Survey from earlier, Mr. Hinds wanted to talk directly to local property owners, suggest new possible business ideas and tenants, and ask for additional information to be included in the records the EDC wished to comply on local commercial properties.

Ms. Cathy agreed with Mr. Hinds that the tasks could be done by the end of the year. They would touch base again on this point in October.

Any other business reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of this meeting:

The Committee discussed when Hanami Cafe would be opening and was looking forward to what would happen with the previous Shepherd's Church, speaking highly of the improvements in North Fairhaven.

The Committee also discussed the Food Truck Flavor Fest, set for September 20, 2024, from 5PM to 8PM. They discussed the planning of the event involving multiple Town departments and committees, how the beer garden would function, the trucks that would be present, and the planned entertainment.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting for regular business is tentatively scheduled for October 17, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Melanson at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie A. Fidalgo
Recording Secretary,
Economic Development Committee

Approved, October 17, 2024