

Town of Farmington
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Committee Members Present:

Ann Titus, Chairman
Denise Roy-Palmer
Resta Detwiler
Martin Laferte, Planning Board Rep.
Charlie King, Board of Selectmen Rep.

Committee Members Absent:

Elaine Aylard- excused
Bill Tsiros

1). Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairman Titus called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2). Public Comment: None.

3). Moose Mountain Regional Update:

Denise Roy-Palmer reported the core group has been meeting regularly and is working on compiling a list of assets for each of the member towns to be included on the group's website. When the site is ready a presentation will be made to the group she said.

4). Update on TIF District:

Discussion included the upcoming Town Meeting vote to adopt the management plan and appoint an advisory board to oversee the district, accrual of enough funds to pay the bond for extension of the sewer lines to the district, incentives to attract businesses, talking to local businesses interested in expanding, doing a resident survey, what businesses will bring in more jobs, not changing the character of the downtown area, the need for utilities in the TIF District, will businesses in the district have to install septic systems until the sewer is installed, what do businesses look for when considering moving to an area, hospital satellites/doctor's offices may not pay taxes and the current medical facility has a negotiated agreement to pay the town portion of the tax rate based on the property assessment.

5). Sign Update:

Selectman Rep. Charlie King said Selectmen have not discussed the committee's proposal to contribute \$200 to the Women's Club town sign repair project. He said plans to bring the matter before Selectmen at their March 7 meeting.

6). By-Laws/Questions for the BOS Rep.:

Mr. King said Selectmen have not reviewed the proposed changes to the committee by-laws but he planned to discuss them at their next meeting on March 7. Members also discussed determining lot prices for the lots in the Sarah Greenfield Business Park, recent business activity in area towns, asking Selectmen to be more competitive in pricing, what utilities are available in the business park, using a commercial broker to obtain a market value of the lots, no consensus of Selectmen as to how to market the lots, the newer Milton industrial park has sold all of its lots at a lower price but is collecting taxes and providing about 100 jobs.

7). Old Business:

Review of Minutes - December 8, 2015

Motion: (Roy-Palmer, second King) to approve the minutes as written passed unanimously.

8). New Business:

A). Joint Meeting - Ms. Detwiler told the committee that the Planning Board is interested in holding a joint meeting with the Economic Development Committee in April. She said the board favored meeting on April 5 to discuss the TIF District. Mr. Laferte said the matter is in the hands of the Selectmen right now and if the warrant articles related to the district are not approved by voters there may be nothing to talk about. Consensus of the committee was to have Chairman Titus contact Interim Planner Liz Durfee and Vice Chairman David Kestner for more information on the topics of discussion and to set the date for the joint meeting for April 5.

B). Recruit New Committee Members- Ms. Detwiler asked if she could begin knocking on business doors to try to find business owners that may be interested in joining the committee. Chairman Titus suggested the committee look at starting a subcommittee to address enlisting new members. She also suggested the committee consider a ribbon cutting ceremony for two new small businesses that have recently opened in town.

9). EDC Blast:

Ms. Roy-Palmer gave Chairman Titus a book of websites designed to provide various types of help to businesses. She earmarked several sites she thought may be of assistance to small business and suggested the links to the sites be included in the monthly e-mail blast to town businesses. Chairman Titus said she will also include information about committee openings and how to become a member.

10). Adjournment:

Motion: (Laferte, second Detwiler) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 6:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary