



Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee

Wednesday, September 16, 2015 Minutes

Attendance:

Name	Present	Name	Present	Name	Present
Sandra Lipsey	-	Anne Theriault	-	Janice DeLima	√
William Lunt III	√	Chris Wasileski	-	Dimitri Balatsos	√
Pam DiPietro-Hale	√	Luc Walker	-		

Council Liaison:

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Staff present:

Theo Holtwijk

Others present:

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The meeting was started around 3:40 PM.

1. Review Draft Schedule for 2015-16 Work Plan

Theo handed out the draft schedule for the 2015-16 work plan as well as notes from discussions with invited business stakeholders that had been held in 2011.

Concerning action ED 4 and 2, the committee agreed to seek feedback from all businesses that have gone through the site plan review process in last 3 years.

Committee members are asked to send to Theo any suggestions for questions that should be asked of the businesses. The 2011 provided the questions that were asked at that time. When the questions are finalized, interviews will be set up, but a written survey will also be prepared in case people want to participate that way.

Concerning action ED 10, Dimitri suggested finding out what assets should be highlight that will be help with a business attraction effort.

Janice felt that the performance metrics of the plan needed more specificity. She also wondered how the FEIC could become a more engaged committee. There was a discussion that the tasks that lie ahead will allow detail to be added and that working on those tasks may help to engage committee members. Bill requested the recent attendance of all committee members and will make some follow-up calls.

The committee agreed to meet once per month on the 3rd Wednesday at 3:30 PM.

Bill suggested that each committee member review the performance metrics and send to Theo any suggestions for revisions prior to the next meeting.

Dimitri was wondering if a meeting with the other committees that have been assigned Economic development (ED) action items could produce some cross fertilization where ideas could be shared. Nathan suggested that such may not be necessary as some actions are stand alone items, except for meeting with CDC as Nathan was concerned that ED 24 that was assigned to CDC may not be given as high a priority as FEIC would like. Bill asked for a clarification why that item had been assigned to CDC. It was an outgrowth of the Route 1 zoning work by CDC and was one item that remained unresolved. Bill felt that item 2 was closely related to item 24. This was followed by a discussion of some past and current projects that had/have gone through the Planning Board review process. It was concluded that some interaction with the CDC on ED 24 would be useful. Bill will call Karen to discuss schedule for ED 24 as Karen is FEIC liaison and is also member of CDC. Pam added that there is excitement to fill any large vacancies and that perception is reality for people when they see any vacancies that business is not good in Falmouth.

Nathan suggested attaching the feedback to the site plan review application packet, so applicants know up front that the Town is interested to find out how their experience went. The committee thought that was a good idea.

There was discussion regarding some large retail properties. Dimitri noted that the state of the economy matters too in the making of business decisions.

2. Review of Draft Minutes of August 19, 2015 Meeting

The draft minutes of the August 19, 2015 meeting were approved with the correction of two typos: “top” in item 1, line 2 was changed to “to” and “an” in item 2 third paragraph line 2 was changed to “and.”

3. Other Business

There was no other business.

4. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be October 21 at 3:30 PM.

The committee adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Draft minutes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, September 21, 2015