

MINUTES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
JANUARY 15, 2018 4:00pm.

Committee Members present: Councilor Martin Dumont, Chairman
 Councilor Richard Michaud
 Councilor Martin Pepin, temporary Mayoral
 Appointment

Administration/Staff present: Bob Belmore, City Manager
 Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk
 Shanna Saunders, Dir. of Planning & Community Dev.
 Robin Comstock, Economic Development Manager

Others Present: Councilor Edward Levasseur

Chairman Dumont called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 5, 2018 MEETING

Motion made by Councilor Michaud, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented, Motion passed 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

None

FORMED BASE CODES

No Updates

ZONING ORDINANCE - DOWNTOWN PARKING REGULATION DRAFT AMENDMENT

Director Saunders updated the Committee on the draft amendment to the Site Plan Regulations and Zoning Ordinance. Director Saunders stated that the amendments to the Site Plan Regulations are adding new sections; Downtown Special Parking District, Historic Mill Yard District and Downtown Portion of the Business District and striking a section of the regulation. Director Saunders stated that currently the Zoning Ordinance doesn't specify that a parking space needed to be paved. The amendment to the Zoning Ordinance is striking 19.21.A.2, and adding the word paved in regards to parking spaces.

Councilor Michaud liked how it was written and has no problem with it.

Discussion on adding some near areas to the downtown special parking district was brought up by Councilor Levasseur, the Committee decided to wait and add at a later time if we see the need.

Manager Belmore stated that the Planning Board needs to approve the Site Plan Regulation amendments while the City Council needs to approve the Zoning Ordinance. The amendment needs some further staff review and legal review before it is presented to full Council. Committee consensus was for City staff to continue to fine-tune the Draft and report back at the next meeting in February.

MISC

Manager Belmore mentioned that he will ask the Mayor to schedule a Council workshop to launch the marketing plan developed by our Consultant, Open the Door, for Feb 19, 2019 at 6pm.

EDC Manager Comstock updated the Committee on an internship opportunity proposal development for students with Katelyn Carrington, from the Career Technical Center. She reached out to 14 local businesses; all 14 businesses came back and said that the students need to work on their social skills, which sparked a piloted new internship program in regards to this aspect of work social skills.

Economic Revitalization Zones are identified by the State of NH. EDC Manager Comstock visited 20 local businesses and handed out flyers and spoke to them about the potential for taping into this program. The Committee was apprised of some other updates in regards to businesses such as Stripe 9 Brewery going into the Somersworth Plaza.

It was mentioned that the new Chamber Executive Director, Amanda Gazlay has started and will host a meet and greet on Thursday, January 31, 2019 from 7:30am – 9:30am.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Michaud, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with a vote of 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk