

Economic Development Citizens Advisory Committee (EDCAC)

Minutes for 12 September, 2012

Held in Town Hall Conference Room

Merrimack, NH

Present: Susan Lee, Marc Casseres, Doug Dowell, Ed Fasci, Chris Woods, Linda Bonetti,

Town Council Representative: Bill Boyd

Absent: N/A

Excused: Richard Tucker, Greg Michael

Public/Guests: Tim Thompson – Director Community Development, Merrimack, NH

Call to Order:

- 7:10PM Chair Susan Lee called meeting to order
- Meeting chaired by Chairperson Susan Lee

Announcements:

- No new announcements

Old Business:

- Discussed whether we need to advocate specific districts in order to adopt the RSA 79-E or use the Master Plan town center language as written.
- Tim Thompson distributed a package with information from several towns and cities in NH that have adopted 79-E. Each had specific districts identified as part of the adoption of RSA 79-E. However, due to Merrimack's urban nature, Mr. Thompson does not recommend that the EDCAC specifically call out an RSA district in their presentation to the Town Council. He recommended that this be left to the Master Planning Steering Committee in conjunction with the Planning Board to properly identify a town center in the 2012 Master Plan that would benefit from RSA 79-E. Furthermore, he recommended that the town council presentation focus on adopting a resolution to support RSA 79-E.
- Tim will work with the Master Planning Steering Committee to ensure the committee considers town center boundaries that take full advantage of RSA 79-E guidelines and recommended properties.
- Discussed RSA district boundaries. Concern raised by Mr. Fasci that identifying too large of a district opens the town up to providing tax relief to parties that don't require it. However, the Town Council at their discretion may deny an application as deemed appropriate.
- The tax relief only applies to structure not properties.

- Motion made by Ms. Bonetti that the EDCAC presentation focus on educating the Town Council on the benefits of RSA 79-E and recommend that the town council endorse a resolution that embraces the concept and that implementation take place after release of the Master Plan. Mr. Dowell 2nd the motion and vote carried in the affirmative 6-0-0.
- Ms. Lee reiterated that EDCAC endorses the concept of 3 separate town centers/villages as conceptualized by the Master Planning Steering Committee. It was noted by Mr. Casseres that this may change.
- 6th Annual Fall Festival/Business Expo will take place on 9/29 from 10AM to 3PM at the Masticola Upper Elementary School. Currently, 100 business and crafters will be on hand. Food will be available from many restaurants. Wally the Green Monster will be present.
- EDCAC to help with Friday night set-up starting at about 5PM. Exhibitors can start setting up at 6PM Friday or 7:30AM Saturday.

Review of Prior Minutes:

Review of August minutes. Several “proof reading” changes were made to the proposed minutes.

- Mr. Dowell made a motion to accept the minutes as modified. Mr. Woods 2nd the motion and the vote was 5-0-1 in the affirmative, and the motion passed.

New Business:

- No new business

Public Comments:

- N/A

Closing Comments:

- Mr. Woods was proud to announce that 440 cyclists participated and raised \$160,000 at the Parkinson’s 100 mile race on 9/8.
- Next meeting is October 10 at 7:00PM
- TIF discussion will be the primary topic at next meeting

Ms. Bonetti made a Motion to close the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Fasci and was carried 6-0-0. Susan then closed the meeting at 8:35pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted to the Committee by,
Marc Casseres

| Secretary – Economic Development Citizens Advisory Committee

These minutes were approved on 3/13/2013 by a vote of 4-0-1, on a motion made by Doug Dowell and seconded by Chris Woods.