

Economic Development Citizens Advisory Committee (EDCAC)

Minutes for the November 9, 2016, Committee Meeting

Held in the Merrimack Memorial Room

Merrimack, New Hampshire

Committee Members

Present: Susan B. Lee, Dawn Shepherd, Ken Asai, David Shaw, Douglas C. Dowell

Absent: Joshua Schiavone

Excused: None

Town Council Representative: Bill Boyd, Tom Mahon, Jackie Flood

Guest(s): Town Center committee reps Peter Flood and Bill Cummings, Nashua Regional Planning Commission rep Stephen Moreau, Southern NH Planning Commission rep David Preece

Public attendee(s): None

1. Call to Order

Susan B. Lee, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Announcements

None

3. Business

a. Age-Friendly and Livable Communities Presentation

- a. Southern NH Planning Commission received a grant from AARP and Manchester Health Dept. to explore issues surrounding age-friendly and livable communities.
 - i. There are 8 domains of livability: transportation, outdoor spaces, housing, social participation, community support, civic participation, communication, and information.
 - ii. Between 2015-2035, there is a projected 127% increase in the over 85 population.
 - iii. Economic impact: working age population will decrease; healthcare costs will increase.
 - iv. Considerations: How are communities preparing to serve the older population? How can the region attract and retain young adults? Are there opportunities between the two age groups? Are both groups aware of the resources within the area/region? How can SNHPC unite to create collective solutions?
 - v. Outline: Year 1 – become age-friendly; Year 2 – pilot program and community involvement, creation of marketing toolkit for other regions and communities.
 - vi. Major Items:
 1. Housing options – what characteristics are seniors and millennials looking for?

2. What are the social barriers to housing?
 3. How can developers and communities expand housing opportunities?
 4. How well can they get around (accessibility and connections)
 5. What role can transportation play?
 6. What challenges do communities face with broadband connectivity?
How can seniors benefit from social interaction with other seniors?
With millennials?
 7. Is there a method that is working that can be implemented?
 8. Do housing ordinances allow for diverse dwelling?
 9. Do roads discourage walkability and bike-ability?
- vii. Age-friendly Businesses
1. Which are successful at attracting seniors and millennials?
 2. What do Boston and Portland offer that we can utilize? (Property values are up in Portland and Portsmouth due to accessibility)
- viii. People thrive on diversity. We need to provide seniors and millennials a chance to connect. Having access to a bus and train system also enhances the quality of life.
- ix. Concern was raised that a tax structure would need to be in place to support any initiative. Also, DOT is town jurisdiction. The question was also raised of who would actually use walkways such as those being discussed leading to Watson Park and Cinemagic.

b. Review of business survey status

- a. Tim Thompson posted the survey link on the community development Twitter feed. An email went out to previous Fall Festival participants, and to Merrimack Chamber members. Susan will add to the Merrimack Forum Facebook page and ask Kristin to add to the town website.

c. Other topics that may be raised during meeting

- a. Transport Director Kristen Harris will be the special guest speaker at the November 15th planning board meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes – 10.12.2016

Change Susan's title to Chairman instead of Chairperson; add 'Age-friendly' to Livable Communities. The motion passed 4-0-1 with corrections.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public attended the meeting.

6. EDCAC MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting of EDCAC is scheduled for January 11, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., in the Merrimack Memorial Room.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Susan thanked Doug for bringing David Preece in to speak to the committee. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by David Shaw and seconded by Dawn. The motion passed 5-0-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted to the Committee by Dawn Shepherd, Secretary.

These minutes were approved on 01/11/2017, by a vote of 5-0-1 on a motion made by Doug Dowell and seconded by David Shaw.