

**Town of Lakeville  
Economic Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 7, 2017**

On March 7, 2016, the Economic Development Committee held a meeting at 6:30 PM at the Town Office Building. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Burke at 6:30 PM. Members present: Aaron Burke, Laurie Driscoll, Timothy Fletcher, Joan Moran, Sharon Christian and Robert Chestnut. Also present: Rita Garbitt, Town Administrator, and Christine Weston, Recording Secretary. LakeCAM was recording the meeting.

**Approve Meeting Minutes for December 6, 2016**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Chestnut and seconded by Mr. Fletcher, it was

VOTED: To approve the Meeting Minutes for December 6, 2016 as presented.  
In favor 5, Abstain 1 (Ms. Christian)

**Discuss Attendance of Committee Members**

Chairman Burke explained that the Board of Selectmen has been reviewing the attendance of members on different Boards and Committees in order to prune away those who haven't been attending to open up spots for others who are interested in serving on a Board or Committee. Ms. Garbitt stated that the Selectmen changed the attendance requirement for appointments to committees. All Board and Committee Chairmen must now record meeting attendance of its members and submit it to the Board of Selectmen in June. This way, before the Selectmen vote the annual re-appointments in July, they can determine if someone has been participating with their Board/Committee throughout the year. This is not a black and white issue. It depends on the committee itself and what it is doing. The EDC is an advisory board to the Board of Selectmen, unlike the Zoning Board or Conservation Commission, who have a responsibility to get back to the applicant. The EDC is able to try and remain flexible for everyone and encourage everyone's participation.

**Discuss Goal Setting for the Committee**

Chairman Burke stated that he would like to work with the Members to set some goals for the Committee. When the MPIC (Master Plan Implementation Committee) reviewed the 2005 Master Plan, it was determined that there was nothing left to implement. The Committee had a choice; never meet again, or forge ahead. They forged ahead to work on a new updated Master Plan which is a statutory obligation of the Planning Board. However, they have not taken on that obligation, so in an effort to keep that moving, the MPIC has done a lot of work interviewing Town Departments/Boards to ask them about updating their section of the Master Plan. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is being created, which hopefully will be approved at Town Meeting to finish updating the Master Plan. The EDC is also at a low point. We have done great events, etc., and it is felt that the Committee should continue. However, how does the Committee see its role going forward? It can be as ambitious as the Members feel it should be. The zoning changes, which the Committee recommended, are moving forward. The Committee can explore other zoning options and keep those conversations moving forward, or it can be something else. This topic can be left as an agenda item and discussed at future meetings as concepts arise. Ms. Garbitt stated that the public hearing for the re-zoning of the parcels

on Main Street has been scheduled. Chairman Burke stated the Selectmen have met with a few groups about Medical Marijuana and their desire to locate a cultivation building in the Industrial Park and a retail facility up on Route 44. The Selectmen signed a letter of non-opposition with one group. Depending on that getting pulled together, it could happen in a year. The growing side of the business may provide the Town with \$100k to \$200k a year. With the retail side, there is a percentage of which the Town would receive. Mr. Chestnut asked how many facilities would the Town allow. Chairman Burke responded that the recreational aspect is tied to liquor licenses, which would be one (1) out of every so many liquor licenses. That will all be changing as the legislature deals with it. The market will not bear too many, due to saturation. The businesses are looking for a certain market penetration. The spot on Route 44 is nice, since it's a good area and near the highways. The businesses can only locate in Industrial Zones. The group that the Selectmen signed a letter of non-opposition with has a consultant from Colorado and the growers are from Hopkinton. Many of these businesses have a hard time getting banking services. Places will not accept checks, if that is how the money is gained, which is ridiculous, since it has been approved on the State level. This is also difficult when they are trying to pay their vendors. Ms. Moran stated that they can accept checks as long as they are not FDIC regulated. Ms. Driscoll noted that SEED has non-federal funds available, but the amount is not enough for what they would need.

Ms. Driscoll mentioned that she had been considering having the Committee become more integrally involved with the different Departments in Town, so that when someone comes in who is interested in relocating to Town, they could have a one stop shop, to meet with everyone at once that they would need to meet with. The Committee could get involved with that person to see if they have any specific needs that the Committee could help them meet. This would give the Committee a stronger pulse on what is taking place in Town. Chairman Burke agreed that that is a good idea, but then there would be a need for the Committee to post meetings at least 48 hours in advance, unless there was one person representing the group. The meetings also might take place during the day, when the key people are available from the Town. Ms. Garbitt stated the Town has the Expedited Permitting process in place for the Lakeville Hospital.

Ms. Driscoll stated that she had spoken with the Massachusetts Office of Business Development and then the Committee about highlighting the Lakeville Hospital property. They have indicated that they would do that. Would the Committee like to do that? Chairman Burke suggested that Ms. Driscoll reach out to Steve Clancy in Quincy. Ms. Driscoll stated that there is a new Regional Officer at the Office of Business Development who covers Lakeville, Maria Morasco. She has offered to come speak with the Committee. The Committee felt that it would be a good idea to meet with Ms. Morasco, so Ms. Driscoll will schedule that with her. Chairman Burke stated that Ms. Driscoll and those on the Committee who work in this aspect of business have a good understanding of it. It is helpful when people come in to Town to have someone available to let them know about all of the programs that are available.

### **Old Business**

Ms. Garbitt stated that back in September a Member of the Committee (Sharon Christian) had asked what was being transported on the freight line in Lakeville. Ms. Garbitt asked Selectman Powderly, and he indicated that it is mostly demolition material.

## **New Business**

Ms. Driscoll stated that May is Small Business Month. Eastern Bank had reached out to her stating that they would like to fund a workshop with the Town. This can be coordinated with the help of Joan Moran, who is the Acting District Director of the RI Small Business Association. Ms. Driscoll suggested that a workshop take place highlighting Eastern Bank and call it “Meet your Local Banker”. Their Manager, Jason, could be invited in along with the lender that covers this area. Since the SBA does not take money, Eastern Bank would pay for the food for the event. The workshop could take place in the Lakeville Library and be coordinated with the Middleborough Chamber of Commerce sometime after May 5<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Burke agreed that it was a good idea, and he would go along with whatever date works for everyone. Ms. Driscoll will pull everything together and update the Committee at its next meeting.

## **Schedule next meeting.**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

## **Adjournment**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Driscoll; seconded by Mr. Chestnut it was:

VOTED:        To adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM.  
                  Unanimous in favor.