

KITTERY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – MINUTES – **APPROVED 04-13-2016**

January 12, 2016

Regular Meeting

Conference Room A

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Dow called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

2. Roll Call.

Answering the call were Chairman George Dow, Tom Emerson, Chris DiMatteo, Ken Lemont, Chuck Denault, and Jeff Thomson. Absent were: Patrick Trevino, Steve Kosacz and John Carlson.

3. Agenda Amendment/Adoption. None

4. Acceptance of Previous Minutes.

Chairman cast one vote to approve the minutes of meeting on 11/24/2015 as presented.

5. All items involving visitors / requested officials.

Tom Emerson presented briefly his position on the Comprehensive Planning Commission (CPC) and the go forward plans of the CPC. The EDC Group asked that Tom serve as its representative at the CPC meetings and report each EDC meeting regarding the CPC activities. Tom stated that the CPC will be a 9 month process with multiple visioning discussions by the public. There has been (1) meeting held so far with the next scheduled for Jan 20th. Tom felt it is important for EDC to bring issues and ideas forward for review by the CPC.

6. Committee Reports.

None

7. Unfinished Business.

- Chair spoke briefly on the sunset presentation to Council. There was no other unfinished business.

8. New Business.

- a. Group elected George Dow as Chairperson – Ken L. nominated with 2nd by Chuck Denault; all in favor
- b. George D. nominated Tom Emerson for Vice-Chair, 2nd by Jeff T.; All in Favor
- c. The committee elected not to nominate a secretary, but would look at this on an as needed basis.
- d. Committee discussed several project ideas and came up with the following for 2016:

1. Foreside Zoning and the impact of the current zoning restrictions. There are several immediate issues that impact on existing and future business expansion; future development of the library properties. Committee elected to bring this forward to the Planning Board as part of its regular meetings planned for 2016. Tom E. will write-up the discussion items for our next meeting with the Planning Board in February 2016.

2. Meeting with local businesses. The idea here is to understand the zoning impacts on their businesses currently and the impact towards future growth or expansion, as well as how these zoning impacts might impact businesses coming to Kittery. The Committee will look to contact key businesses in various zones in the Town, asking them to contact

other businesses in their area, and then setup business forums as a means of outreach from the EDC.

3. To study the current business structure on the by-pass, discuss what types of business would complement these businesses on the by-pass. The intent is to develop a growth plan, as required by the Maine DOT, to gain support and \$\$ to help reconfigure the by-pass lane configuration as well as the potential for sidewalks and bicycle lanes as discussed at the various Planning Board meetings.

4. The committee also discussed looking at areas of town that could support the expansion of businesses in Kittery currently. Terra Cotta currently produces much of its product in Dover and sells its product in Kittery and elsewhere. There are many other small business that need the ability to expand and the intent of this review would be to keep these customers in Kittery.

9. Committee Member Issues or Comments.

Chairperson Dow notified the Committee that EDC members Pat Trevino and John Carlson are resigning from the EDC due to business and personal matters, but wished the EDC all the best for the future and strongly believe in its purpose. Chairperson Dow has provided this information to Town Clerk, Maryann Place, who will be reviewing the pool for interested applicants.

Chairperson Dow also brought forward discussion on requesting the Town Council consider reducing the number of EDC members, in order to reduce the number of voting members required for a quorum. The current EDC is made up of 11 members (9) of which are voting. A quorum requires (5) voting members and at this point there are exactly (5) on the EDC. The committee was not opposed to this decision.

10. Meeting Schedule & Adjournment.

NEXT MEETING: February 9, 2016

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by the Councilor Denault; Seconded by the Tom Emerson. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

Posted: February 9, 2016