

Milton Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2016

Opening

The regular meeting of the Milton Economic Development Committee was called to order at 5:45pm on October 11, 2016 in the Emma Ramsey Center by Justin Avery.

Committee Members Present

Justin Avery, Bob Bourdeau, Cubbi Lirette, Nick Marique

Open Items

Approval of Minutes from September 6, 2016 Meeting:

The minutes from the September 2016 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Marique made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Mr. Bourdeau seconded the motion, all in favor. Motion passed.

Old Business

Review Draft letter for Business Visitation:

Mr. Avery presented a draft letter to be distributed to local business owners in Milton. The intent of the letter is to open a dialogue with the town's business owners to proactively engage them and hear their feedback on limitations and opportunities. The committee members approved of the letter and discussion ensued about the need to have it reviewed by either the Town Administrator or the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Marique will discuss with the various parties to gain clarification on what the committee can and cannot do.

Business Visitation Program:

Mr. Avery opened a discussion on a committee created business visitation program. A listing of Milton businesses was distributed to the committee members with a goal of adding any names/contacts not currently listed by next meeting so that the group can begin mailing letters. The group agreed that the goal of the visitation program is to provide a sounding board for the local business owners in the hopes that they will speak candidly in an informal setting. The committee members agreed that six letters should be mailed out every month.

ER Zones:

Continuing the discussion of ER Zones from the September MEDC meeting, Mr. Avery provided copies of the DRED ER Zone FAQs and Application. Mr. Avery opened the discussion by asking if the committee could identify other areas within Milton that could be designated ER Zones. Mr. Marique, Mr. Bourdeau and Ms. Lirette identified the large plots of currently vacant land around Exit 17 on Rte. 16. According to Mr. Marique and Mr. Bourdeau, this area of town has been discussed quite extensively in recent years by various boards and committees as a location for future commercial development. Mr. Avery commented that though an ER Zone designation will not be the sole reason a company will choose to open shop in Milton, it will add to the overall package when "selling" Milton to a company. Mr. Avery also

posed the question on whether or not the industrial park could be designated as a zone. Discussion ensued regarding the qualifications for designation and whether or not there was additional room and/or opportunity for businesses in the industrial park to improve their facilities and/or expand on them which could ultimately lead to future job growth. Feeling confident that it would, the committee discussed proposing the application for designation to the selectmen. Mr. Marique made a motion to ask for the selectmen's permission to seek ER Zone Designation for both the vacant land surrounding Exit 17 on Rte 16 and the entire industrial park off of Rte 125, Ms. Lirette seconded the motion, all in favor with Mr. Bourdeau abstaining. Motion passed. Mr. Avery will construct a letter to the selectmen on behalf of the committee requesting permission for the next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

Other Items

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:

Mr. Avery was previously notified by Ms. Dana Smith that she was still waiting for approved minutes from the Milton EDC for the following meeting dates: 10-6-15, 12-1-15, 2-2-16, 5-3-16, and 6-7-16. Ms. Lirette had copies of the meeting minutes that were missing with the exception of the Dec. 1, 2015 meeting. Mr. Marique will forward copies of the minutes on hand to Ms. Smith. Mr. Bourdeau, Ms. Lirette and Mr. Marique will check their files before next month's meeting for a copy of the Dec. 1, 2015 meeting minutes to provide to Ms. Smith.

Approval of Minutes from Aug. 2nd 2016 Meeting:

The minutes of the Aug. 2, 2016 meeting had not been distributed to the committee's members for review prior to the September meeting so they were on the table for approval at the October 2016 meeting. Mr. Bourdeau made a motion to accept the August MEDC meeting minutes as presented, Ms. Lirette seconded the motion, all in favor. Motion passed.

Update on Ray's Marina Site:

Mr. Bourdeau updated the committee on progress at the former Ray's Marina site. At this time, the owner has withdrawn their site plan and there are no formal plans that the planning board is aware of for the site.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm by Justin Avery. The next general meeting will be at 5:30 pm on November 1, 2016, in the Milton Town Hall.

Minutes submitted by: Justin Avery