

The Economic Development Commission (EDC) held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 23, 2016 at the Notch Road Municipal Center, Room 9 with Chair Bill Anderson presiding. Commission members present were Cathy Teller, Neal Kerr, Scott Rich and Milton Hathaway (arrived at 7:08 p.m.). Also present First Selectman Robert Morra (arrived at 7:07 p.m.) and selectman Gwen Marrison.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Approval/Modification of Minutes to the February 23, 2016 Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Rich, seconded by Ms. Teller to approve the regular meeting minutes of the February 23, 2016 as presented. Motion passed with Mr. Kerr abstaining.

Mr. Anderson requested the commission act on any necessary items at the beginning of the meeting due to another meeting that is taking place at 7:30 that three members will have to attend.

III. Public Comment/Introduction of Guests

Selectman Gwen Marrison was present to follow up regarding discussion on the potential trail and the Tails to the Trails Program that took place. Ms. Marrison briefly reviewed the history of the trail events. There is a small group of people that has been established to help provide information to the public to increase the awareness of biking and trails. They are also discussing the economic benefits of having a trail. She shared an email with someone ideas.

- Find local restaurant to sponsor a ride and offer a discount meal when return
- Have a kiosk with information on local restaurants (specify how far the next one is away)
- Bike racks at restaurants
- Have businesses sponsor a portion of each trail
- Growth of bed and breakfasts near trails has happened in other areas
- Mini golf location could be a potential destination for children to access with their bikes

The group briefly reviewed the Tails from the Trails presentation. A major point of the discussion was the economic benefit.

Mr. Kerr shared his opinion regarding the trail. He feels that residents and business owners along the potential trail were not informed from the beginning. Ms. Teller suggested doing more research on both sides of the discussion. Mr. Kerr referenced an article regarding negative impacts of trails that he will provide to the commission.

Ms. Marrison thanked Mr. Anderson for attending the recent BOS meeting as a representative of the EDC.

IV. On-going Business

A. Commission Members' Reports

1. P&Z Activities:

Item not discussed.

2. Quarterly Meetings with Land Use Boards

Item not discussed.

3. Outreach

- a. Tails from the Trails presentation
Discussed under public comment.

Mr. Morra distributed the Ethics Ordinance and the Acknowledgement Form for each commission member and employee of the town.

Mr. Morra also shared that testing was recently completed on the old drive in theater area for septic. Approval will be required by the BLRWPCA, in addition to other approvals. The plan is incorporating detached units (1800 square feet). This will be a Senior Community (55 and over).

Mr. Kerr, Mr. Hathaway, Mr. Rich and First Selectman Robert Morra left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

The group briefly discussed the process in obtaining permits, and discussed that EDC should be more involved when potential business owners first come to the town.

4. TCCC EDC Subcommittee

a. TCCC membership invoice

Mr. Anderson reported that he has submitted all the necessary paperwork to process payment on the invoice for the TCCC.

B. Bolton Business Yellow Pages

Item not discussed.

C. EDC Website

Ms. Teller asked Mr. Kerr to send out the write up regarding the EDC to the email distribution list.

D. Branding Project

Ms. Teller shared some examples of signs from some different contractors. Ms. Marrion suggested looking at the signs that are at Bolton Heritage Farm and Herrick Park.

E. Budget Balance

Ms. Marrion asked for information regarding the Economic Trust Fund. Ms. Teller provided information on when it was established and how the funds are added to it.

The group briefly discussed replacing the Annual Business Gathering with a "Bolton Day Field Trip", which could include open houses at local businesses.

V. New Business

Nothing to report.

VI. Announcements

A. Next EDC Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 9 of the Notch Road Municipal Center.

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Teller, seconded by Mr. Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Bolduk
Board Clerk

PLEASE SEE THE MINUTES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THESE MINUTES AND ANY CHANGES TO THEM.