

TOWN OF BOLTON
Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Commission members in attendance were Bill Anderson, Alex Ansaldi, Milton Hathaway and Cathy Teller.

1. **Call to Order:** Acting Chairman Milton Hathaway called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. **Get up to current news and status via discussion:** No discussion
3. **Discuss future of the EDC:** No discussion
4. **Review, discuss and compile thoughts on Four Town Economic Vitality Action Plan**
M. Hathaway thought that there was a lot of good information contained in the Plan. He has belonged to the TCCC and EDC for many years and attends hearings in many towns to see how they handle their affairs. He feels that the P&Z Commission should communicate with the EDC when new businesses are proposed. The EDC's in all 4 towns operate differently. He feels that the Economic Development Commissions in the 4 towns should get together for a meeting to exchange ideas and that the members of the EDC in each town should communicate with each other.

W. Anderson spoke about the Charter Revision Commission and the fact that many of the boards and commissions in town are struggling for members. He feels that Planning and Zoning should be two separate entities with EDC merged with the Planning entity. Until regulations are relaxed and the need for special permits are eliminated it will be difficult to attract new businesses to town. W. Anderson noted that it can become very costly to go through the process of obtaining special permits.

A. Ansaldi agrees with Mr. Anderson's comments. A. Ansaldi also mentioned the special permit process and how it can be detrimental to attracting new businesses.

C. Teller noted that all four towns need to agree on one plan before implementation. She appreciated the scope of the report but doesn't know what has happened to all of the studies that have been done in the past. She feels that this Plan exists to grow partnerships between the towns but not to necessarily grow businesses. She would have liked to see more practical guidance and a strategic plan for developing areas in these towns.

C. Teller also questioned how much it would cost to hire staff to promote Economic Development and if it would be helpful to share the cost among the 4 towns. W. Anderson questioned how the cost would be prorated between the towns. M. Hathaway feels that opportunities for obtaining grant money are not being pursued

due to the lack of staff. C. Teller noted that as volunteers there is a lack of man hours to pursue many of the suggestions in the plan

W. Anderson attended the first 4 Town meeting. He mentioned that it would be beneficial to talk to a developer that has done projects in the State and get their opinions about developing a business in Bolton.

C. Teller noted that the deadline for submitting comments on the plan is August 28, 2020 and suggested that each commission member submit their comments individually.

5. **Set up additional meetings:** No action
6. **Correspondence:** None
7. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting is not yet determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie J. Brand

Leslie Brand, Board Clerk

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.