

TOWN OF BOLTON
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.
Room 9, Notch Road Municipal Center

Commission members in attendance were Bill Anderson, Milton Hathaway and Cathy Teller. Two members of the public were also in attendance.

I. Call to Order: Acting Chairman Bill Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

II. Approval/Modification of Minutes of December 3, 2019 Meeting:

C. Teller moved to accept the minutes as written. M. Hathaway seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Teller moved to add **Goal Setting** to the agenda under **New Business**. M. Hathaway seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment/Introduction of Guests:

John Sabol, a Coventry resident feels that from what he is reading in the news, Heritage Farm and the Bike Trail are the only places that are of interest to the Town. He asked if the EDC feels that the BOS is stifling the operation of the EDC. The Commission does not feel that that is the case but that communication could be better.

The Heritage Farm is being developed to become a destination and potential money maker for the Town.

The Bike Trail is a hot topic now as it is fairly new and usage is growing. The feeling of the Commission is that the new Town Administrator, Joshua Kelly is doing a good job and that he is very approachable.

Andrew Ladyga, a Coventry resident asked about the status of drive-thru approval in Bolton. At a recent meeting in Coventry, it was mentioned that drive-thru businesses are not approved in Bolton. M. Hathaway spoke of the research that he had done in the past regarding the potential opening of a Dunkin Donuts at the Bolton Mobil Station.

B. Anderson noted that it is in the regulations that drive thrus can be approved although it would be by special permit.

Mr. Ladyga also spoke about the regulations concerning special permitting at his farm operation. The special permit uses that he is exploring are Business or Professional Office, Personal/Business Services, Nursery (agricultural) and Value added agribusiness and forestry uses (processing and sale). He and his lawyer are looking for ways to obtain permitting for his operations in the RMUZ. He is trying to determine the best way to present his case to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

B. Anderson suggested the Mr. Ladyga listen to the taped meetings of the Planning and Zoning Meetings to see if there is a precedent that Mr. Ladyga could use in his favor.

Mr. Ladyga also noted that there is a baker from Coventry that has interest in selling baked goods including custom cakes (baked offsite) at his farm stand. The option of having the baking done on site was also discussed. B. Anderson noted that there may be regulations concerning bringing in goods to sell that were produced offsite.

IV. On-going Business

A. Commission Members' Reports

1. P&Z Activities:

C. Teller noted that the minutes for the January 2020 meeting were not yet posted on the website. In the December meeting, the Lyndale Farm was discussed, the 2020 meeting dates were set and they discussed their open position.

B. Anderson noted that Bolton won an award through CEDAS for Economic Development best practices although it appeared that any town that submitted a survey and earned a certain number of "points" won an award.

2. Quarterly Meetings w/ Land Use Boards

B. Anderson will contact Joshua Kelly to set up meetings.

M. Hathaway would like to know what the BOS goals are.

3. TCCC EDC subcommittee

M. Hathaway had nothing to report.

4. Outreach/Training:

Sexual Harassment training needs to be completed by February 29, 2020.

B. EDC website

1. Updating Bolton Business Yellow Pages

A. Ansaldi finished the map and contacted S. Pierog regarding the proposal about business listings.

C. Bike Walk Bolton Proposal

There is an outstanding bill to be paid and then this item will be removed from the agenda.

D. 4-Town Economic Development Action Plan

Mr. Sabol asked about the proposed need for moderately priced housing and questioned what the definition of moderate is. B. Anderson noted that moderate is a subjective term.

C. Teller will follow up to find out the status of the plan, get a copy of the draft report and get the date of the next meeting.

E. Budget Balance

C. Teller presented the latest statement from the Finance Office.

V. New Business/Other items not on the agenda

A. Goal Setting

M. Hathaway feels that the Commission should have a list of issues/goals to discuss with Josh Kelly. C. Teller feels that the EDC should have specific asks prior to meeting with Josh. Examples include asking him to make the EDC aware of new permits in town, have staff time available to carry out day to day operations, have regular meetings or communications every month and be prepared to hand him materials i.e. the POCD and the three studies for his review.

B. Anderson feels that Josh Kelly and the BOS should share their EDC related goals with the EDC.

The commission members will come up with 2020 goals and objectives to discuss at the next meeting.

VI. Announcements

A. Next EDC Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 9 of the Notch Road Municipal Center.

VII. Adjournment

C. Teller moved to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. M. Hathaway seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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.