

Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes June 7, 2021

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this public meeting of the Town of Bolton Planning Board was conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public were permitted, but the public can access this meeting while in progress using Zoom Video Communications, Inc. (Zoom). Members of the public attending this meeting virtually were allowed to make comments if they wish to do so, during the portion of the hearing designated for public comment, by telephone, cell phone or personal computer using Zoom.

Directions to connect to the public meeting were provided on the agenda.

In attendance: Erik Neyland (Chair), Sean Serell (Vice Chair), Amy Balewicz, Gwen Cook, Alan Santos

Town Staff: Valerie Oorthuys

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Erik Neyland.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2021

Amy Balewicz moved to approve the minutes of April 12, 2021 as written. 2nd by Sean Serell. All in favor by roll call: Erik Neyland – Yes; Sean Serell- Yes; Amy Balewicz- Yes, Gwen Cook- Yes, Alan Santos- Yes; (5/0/0).

Discussion with Jason Palitsch, 495/MetroWest Partnership

Guest Jason Palitsch, Executive Director of the 495 MetroWest Partnership, spoke about the Partnership and his wish to collaborate with EDC organizations from metro west cities and towns around priorities such as transportation, housing, energy, and water resources, as they impact economic development. Partnership meetings are open to anyone interested. The coalition coordinates between all of the 36 cities and towns in metro west. Bolton Town Administrator Don Lowe is on their Board of Directors. The Partnership produces an annual survey of employers in the area. In 2021, 184 employers participated.

The EDC discussed Bolton's vacant commercial buildings. Jason Palitsch talked about the types of businesses currently expanding that could be a good fit; life sciences manufacturing and e-commerce warehouse/shipping (such as Amazon).

Master Plan Considerations

In response to the Master Plan Steering Committee's request for input, Erik Neyland presented his approach for the EDC input to the Town Center District in the Master Plan.

Mary Ciummo, 74 Corn Road, addressed the plans for Town Center development and the potential impact on the Historic District. She also raised the commercial possibilities in the Forbush Mill Road area.

Valerie Oorthuys noted that the EDC approach to Town Center is very new and focused on the content of EDC's input to the Master Plan.

Backyard Bolton Planning

2021 Backyard Bolton dates: August 21 and 28. September 11th.

Erik has had very strong response from Vendors.

Erik adjourned the meeting at 8:35.

Submitted by Gwen Cook.