

MINUTES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 11, 2014

Called to order at 7:20 p.m.

Present: Lana Razdan, Rollyn Hoffman, Peter Beacham, Jim Cox, Theresa Scatterday, Rob Liebow, Steve Attwood

Absent: Gary DellaRocco

Guests: Suzan Galpin, Merry Seppala, Jonathan Ring

➤ **Minutes of the Meeting of January 14, 2013**

Approved.

➤ **RFP Update**

Two proposals have been received. Lana, Rol, and Steve will review them for minimum compliance with the RFP and to develop questions. A special meeting of the EDC will then be convened to interview the candidates.

➤ **Walking Tour App Update**

The committee responsible for advancing the app development continues to gather information. Jim will attend the next meeting which is scheduled for February 25, and rollout is tentatively scheduled for some time in March.

➤ **Demographic/ Real Estate Discussion**

Theresa has identified several young families who have moved into Rockport. It is hoped that these families will share via a focus group what motivated their decision to move. Theresa will work with Lana to develop a discussion guide for the meeting.

➤ **School Override Discussion**

Rob, working with several committees in town, is in the process of finalizing the school budget and the amount of the override that will be requested at Town Meeting.

➤ **Other Business**

- Suzan will discuss with the Innkeepers the idea of them funding a shuttle bus into and out of town for the benefit of their guests and thus alleviate parking problems. Lana will discuss the CATA contract and its funding with Erin Battistelli.
- The committee feels that the article "All Economies are Local" by Christopher Robbins provides a logical 3 step approach for creating a blueprint for local economic development. Peter will explore whether Endicott College has the possibility of identifying a college student to assist the committee in the major data gathering and analytical effort that will be required in order to provide a valuable planning document for the town.

- Following receipt of a quotation from US Specialty Coatings, it was decided to proceed with the ordering of paint supplies for the Wayfinding Project. Peter and Steve will meet in the next week to define outstanding actions, and at the beginning of April Rob will organize the student volunteers for painting – tentatively scheduled for end April.
- The ability of pedestrians, particularly those with disabilities, to maneuver around downtown sidewalks following a snow storm is extremely limited due to inadequate snow clearing either by the town, business owners, or citizens. Jim has tried to clarify responsibilities, but the picture is not clear. Lana will liaise with the DPW to have a better understanding of their priorities in sidewalk clearance.

➤ **Date of Next Meeting**

March 11, 2014

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.