

MINUTES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 4, 2014

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Gary DellaRocco

Guests: Suzan Galpin, Jonathan Ring

➤ **Minutes of the Meeting of February 11, 2014**

Approved.

➤ **Budget Review**

Lana indicated that, as budgets are being prepared for Town Meeting, there is considerable pressure from the Finance Committee to eliminate non-essential spending in 2014, as well as a distinct possibility of reduced funding for fiscal 2015.

➤ **RFP Update**

Two proposals were received that were in compliance with the RFP. New Arts Collaborative and Warner Communications each met separately with the Committee. Following a period of deliberation and discussion, the Committee:

- Voted to recommend the award of the contract to Warner Communications based on the qualitative criteria described in the RFP.

➤ **Other Business**

- The Walking Tour App continues to progress towards launch thanks to the work by Lana and Jim. Rol will take responsibility for updating the app information.
- Lana, Jim and Theresa attended a meeting where Barry Bluestone, Professor of Political Economy, and Founding Director for the Center for Urban and Regional Policy at Northeastern University, was a speaker. He has significant experience in the economic development of communities and expressed his willingness to assist the committee in creating a blueprint for Rockport. Based on an enthusiastic recommendation and belief that the quality of work would be far superior to that of a graduate student, the Committee:
 - Voted to authorize \$4,500.00 to be paid for Dr. Bluestone's services in analyzing the current economic profile of Rockport as the essential building block for a future plan.
- Paint and stencils have been received for the Wayfinding project and the new signage required has been ordered. In this regard it was:
 - Voted to authorize payment of \$325.84 to Gloucester Graphics, Inc. Peter, Rob and Steve will meet at the end of March to plan the project execution actions using RHS volunteers, with painting tentatively scheduled for end April.

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- **Date of Next Meeting**
April 8, 2014

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.