

MINUTES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

October 8, 2013

Called to order at 7:20 p.m.

Present: Lana Razdan, Rollyn Hoffman, Jim Cox, Gary DellaRocco, Peter Beacham, Rob Liebow, Steve Attwood

Guests: Matt Cegelis, Richard and Tracey Nestel

➤ **Minutes of the Meeting of September 3, 2013**

Approved.

➤ **PR Update**

Matter Communications are reaching the end of their contract. Some projects will continue beyond contract expiry and will be completed by Matter. A new draft RFP was circulated by Lana and discussed. Lana invited further comment before she finalizes it with input from town officials.

➤ **Wayfinding Update Report**

It is intended that the painting be performed in April 2014 subject to weather and organizational constraints. Peter and Steve will liaise with third parties as necessary and Rob will work with the school administration.

➤ **MCC Walking Tour App Process**

A firm has been hired to create a walking tour app for points of cultural interest in Gloucester, Essex and Rockport. Lana and Jim are collaborating on the execution phase.

➤ **Restaurant/ Grocery/ Pharmacy Update**

Blue Gate Gardens will not be the site of a new pharmacy as financing for the venture did not materialize. Peter reported however, that the site is under agreement to become an office building. Discussions are advancing on creating new restaurants, and also many potential grocery stores have expressed some interest in the old IGA site.

➤ **Fireworks Update**

Following the success of the Fireworks display this year, fundraising and planning for next year has already begun. August 9, 2014 has been set as the date.

➤ **Other Business**

- Rob Liebow was officially welcomed to the EDC. Further potential new members have been approached to see if there is mutual interest.
- Rob gave an update on the recent MCAS scores for Rockport High School as well as an overview of the impact of school choice students on planning.
- Richard and Tracey Nestel spoke from the innkeepers' perspective of the need for further restaurant and alcohol options for their guests. They suggested a 'pub'

type establishment would serve the townspeople and visitors well. They were advised to review current regulations concerning the serving of alcohol, prepare a business concept and plan, and to discuss options in the first instance with the Town Administrator.

- **Date of Next Meeting**
November 12, 2013

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.