

MINUTES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
May 8, 2019 at 4:30pm

Committee Members present: Councilor Martin Dumont, Chairman
Councilor Richard Michaud
Councilor Donald Austin

Administration/Staff present: Bob Belmore, City Manager
Trish Harris, City Clerk
Shanna Saunders, Dir. of Planning & Community Dev
Robin Comstock, Economic Development Manager

Others Present: Steve Whitman, Resilience Planning & Design

Chairman Dumont called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 13, 2019 MEETING

Motion made by Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Michaud, made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented, Motion passed 3-0.

FORM BASED CODE – RESILIENCE PLANNING & DESIGN CONSULTANTS

Steve Whitman of Resilience Planning and Design Consultants gave an update on his work to date. He has met with Shanna and Bob and while canvassing the City he was asked by some property owners what he was doing and upon explanation this project was well received.

There was brief discussion regarding the existing land use patterns table that it is included in the packet.

Mr. Whitman shared that the plan was to create a user-friendly document for each form based code district that can be distributed to developers with information regarding each zone, i.e., the vision, dimensional regulations, uses, placement of buildings on the lot, height of buildings, sign regulations, parking regulations, street scaping, and architectural standards.

Mr. Whitman explained that part of the user friendly approach would be to include reference to any appropriate City Ordinance. The new form based code could be used for other areas of the City Zoning Ordinance.

There was lengthy discussion regarding the Interactive Public Input session. The forum is a short meeting; explaining what form based code is, with emphasis on structural design. The public will be able to provide their input, comments and opinions regarding the downtown form based code zoning with the use of a visual preference survey. They will be able to choose images of examples of what they would like to see in their community. The survey will be hosted on Survey Monkey. There will be a link on the flyer to the survey.

Councilor Austin asked if this fits with the HDC requirements.

Director Saunders said they will go side by side. Form based code is more general.

The Public Input Session is scheduled for June 3rd, 2018, at 5pm, followed by the Form Based Code City Council Workshop at 6:00pm.

A draft Form Based Code Ordinance will be presented to Council by the end of the year.

MISC

The Committee briefly discussed the following:

- Lucky's is closing, but some interest in this property.
- NH Liquor store will be open in approximately 2 months
- Listening session for Rt. 108 was well attended. There will be a field visit soon.
- Bank on Main St and John Parsons was purchased by a dentist.
- Brewery with pizza oven going in at the Plaza
- David Baker purchased vacant property on Government Way
- Hilltop School property is moving along
- Nothing going on with the Somersworth Hotel
- Charette plan is still in the works. Targeting something in the fall. There has been a lot of interest.
- GAR building approved for residential conversion. Commercial on the lower floors and Residential on the upper floors
- Nothing has been done at the Bleachery yet.
- In contact with developer to purchase the former PD.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Councilor Austin, seconded by Councilor Michaud to adjourn the meeting at 5:37pm. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Harris, City Clerk