

Town of Barrington

Economic Development Task Force Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2015

Members Present: Matthew Amaral, Mark Etheridge, Robert Humm, Edwin McKinlay, and Dick Wilbur

1. Call to Order at 7:00 PM
2. Motion to approve minutes of July 23 by Mark Etheridge, seconded by Ed McKinlay. Passed unanimously by Rob Humm, Mark Etheridge, Ed McKinlay, Matt Amaral and Dick Wilbur
3. Matthew Amaral briefed the meeting on his recent attendance of the East Bay Chamber of Commerce's Board of Director's meeting. Mr. Nathan Carullo of the Bristol Town Council was present, and Matt noted that Carullo briefed on Bristol's effort to create a part-time "Economic Coordinator" position. Apparently some in Bristol do not feel this is necessary, but others do. Matt has agreed to pursue a copy of Bristol's position description for our own consideration if one currently exists. Bristol has had an Economic Development Committee since 2012. It is a permanent town committee with 6-7 members. The Committee holds public meetings. Matt noted that he hopes to meet with folks from the Bristol Town Council before our next meeting. A suggestion was made to invite the Bristol Economic Development Committee chair Dr. Jerry Dauterive of Roger Williams to attend a future meeting of the Barrington Ad Hoc Economic Development Task Force to provide feedback and insight into their operations.
4. The group next discussed the Barrington Comprehensive Community Plan, with a focus on the section addressing Economic Development. A comment was made that businesses related to health care have increased in the last few years while those associated with manufacturing have decreased. Matt Amaral commented that manufacturing has never been a factor in Barrington in his career as there are limited facilities and those that had existed have been converted to other uses over the years. Mark Etheridge opined that Barrington would make a perfect location for shipping and receiving given its central location in the greater Providence/SE Mass area. The group then began discussion of the idea of establishing an impact fee for new construction in town as a possible new source of town revenue to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. Other questions that arose for future discussion included the idea of creating incentives to increase employment within town, and whether to focus on identifying locations within town that could/should be built upon by/for businesses. Before turning to the next agenda item, Rob Humm points out that p. 39 of the Comprehensive Plan includes wording on the creation of an Ad Hoc

Economic Development Task Force, and that such wording could be useful in developing our mandate and mission statement.

5. Next, the meeting discussed the Comprehensive List of Barrington businesses provided to us by the Town Council, which comprises approx. 550 businesses. Mark suggested that we need to break it down by categories, including brick and mortar vs. home-based businesses; types of licenses; length of operation; # of employees; year begun; and that this kind of data would be helpful to our discussions. The meeting discussed what to do with this list, including a possible mailer to all businesses to introduce ourselves, and to use the list to survey the business community on various issues and data. Matthew Amaral noted that the Barrington Business Association in 2011 used a mailer to obtain similar information from businesses. A motion was made by Mark Etheridge to send a mailer to all businesses listed on the Comprehensive List to introduce the Ad Hoc Economic Development Task Force (AHEDTF) and how best to contact and interact with the group. Ed McKinlay seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.
6. The meeting next discussed the issue of whether to use the Barrington Town Website for the purposes of communicating the mandate of the AHEDTF widely. In addition, the group discussed the idea of approaching the Barrington Times for purposes of obtaining wide press coverage on the AHEDTF. A motion was made by Matt Amaral to rescind the first motion under Item 5 in order to address items 5 and 6 together. Dick Wilbur seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously. After further discussion of items 5 and 6, a new motion was made by Matt Amaral that, pursuant to discussion of items 5 & 6 of the meeting agenda, the AHEDTF request from the Barrington Town Council the creation of a webpage on the Town Council's website and an official email address for the purposes of introducing the AHEDTF to the Barrington community and providing a means of regular communication and data collection between Barrington businesses and the AHEDTF; and, once these items had been created, to distribute a mailer to the list of businesses found on the Comprehensive List for the purposes of introducing to them the AHEDTF and providing therein the URL and email address for the AHEDTF, and to consider approaching the Barrington Times and/or other media for the purposes of developing awareness in town of the existence and mandate of the AHEDTF. Ed McKinlay seconded the motion, which was then passed unanimously.
7. As time was running short, Dick Wilbur made a motion to table discussion of items 7 - 11 until future meetings. The motion was seconded by Ed McKinlay. The motion to table items 7, 9, 10 and 11 passed unanimously, while the motion to table item 8 passed by a vote of 4-1.
8. A motion to adjourn was made by Mark Etheridge at 8:03pm and seconded by Matt Amaral. Passed unanimously by Robert Humm, Matthew Amaral, Ed McKinlay, Mark Etheridge and Dick Wilbur.
9. Adjourned at 8:05 pm.