

**Town of Barrington
Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2015**

Members Present: Matthew Amaral, Mark Etheridge, Robert Humm, Jim Sanderson, and Dick Wilbur. Town Council member Mike Carroll attended as well.

1. Call to Order at 7:05 PM
2. October 15 Minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Chair Rob Humm reported that the Town Council at its last meeting approved both the new name of Economic Development Committee (EDC) and our proposed mission statement. The Council directed the EDC to communicate directly with the Town webmaster regarding wording of a webpage to be added to the pages assigned to other commissions and councils on the Town website. As well, the EDC will coordinate directly with the webmaster to develop an appropriate email address for the committee. The Chair also reminded the meeting that in our capacity as Committee members it is appropriate to share information out in town regarding issues the EDC is undertaking or deliberating upon, but not to represent the Committee as believing or agreeing upon something that has yet to be passed officially.
4. The meeting next considered the draft language of a proposed press release and webpage, and provided suggested edits to Dick Wilbur for incorporation into future drafts. Mike Carroll suggested the webpage of the Energy Committee as a possible model for an EDC page. He also agreed to pass a draft quote for the press release through Town Council President Dr. June Speakman before the next meeting. A motion was made and passed unanimously to table a decision on the wording of a press release and webpage until the next meeting.
5. The Committee next discussed pros and cons of a possible Town Business Liaison position, including whether the job should be created on a part-time basis and with what objectives in mind. Mike Carroll confirmed that at present there is no budget set aside for such a position, but that there is a certain amount of support for the idea - which was one reason behind the creation of the Committee in the first place. Mark noted that potential business owners find themselves confronted with a lot of information regarding steps to establish a business in town, but that the information is presented in a confused and scattershot manner. One potential benefit to

having a designated business liaison in town would be to streamline these processes and provide an ombudsman role for new and existing businesses. The group agreed that it would be our job to pitch the concept of a business liaison to the Town Council, identifying major problems and objectives of such a position. One such objective might be to serve a coordinating role within the Town for special events such as the Barrington Youth Soccer Association annual tournament, which could represent a real opportunity to local businesses if coordination with BYSA organizers could be pursued. Committee members agreed to bring to the next meeting their own list of issues, pros and cons and priorities that a potential business liaison position could address, for the purpose of developing consensus on the issue and comprehensive input to the Town Council.

6. Food Trucks. Mark Etheridge had brought this issue to the Chair for discussion and potential action. Mike Carroll pointed out that the Town does not receive any income from food trucks, and that these trucks pay taxes to the towns in which they are based. Trucks go through a State licensing process but to date are not required to apply for a Barrington license or to pay taxes to Barrington. This uneven situation represents a potential disadvantage to Barrington food businesses. All agreed that the issue of food trucks will grow over time and that the Committee should continue looking into the topic for potential action.
7. As time did not permit, the meeting discussed agenda item 7, the creation of a Business Focus Group, briefly, and agreed to table it for future consideration.
9. The members reviewed the schedule for the next set of meetings, to include: December 17, January 21 and February 28.
10. No other business being discussed, the meeting adjourned at 8:45.