

**Town of Barrington  
Economic Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes (Amended)  
December 17, 2015**

**Members Present:**

Matthew Amaral, Mark Etheridge, Robert Humm, Jim Sanderson, and Dick Wilbur.

1. Call to Order at 7:13 PM
2. November 19 Minutes were approved unanimously with two small amendments.
3. Chair Rob Humm reported on the Town Council's (TC) annual review of the 2015 Comprehensive Community Plan during a November 30 meeting with the Town Planning Board. The TC is required to update the plan every ten years and to amend it every five years, and had decided to conduct an annual review in keeping with the spirit of these requirements. Rob reminded the Meeting of the sections of the Plan that refer to economic development, specifically Chapter 10 and pp. 149-181. At the Nov. 30 meeting the attendees also reviewed a recent parking study conducted by a local contractor, the goals of which were to consider how to provide better support to the business community and how to better connect various retail zones in town. In general, the town has plenty of parking; the bad news is that the parking that exists is not ideally placed to maximize benefit to the business community or consumers desiring to shop around town. Ideas considered by the study included developing "one parking" and "shared parking" areas. As well, the Town Council is looking at options to provide a) on-street parking along County Road in the downtown area, and b) shared business parking. In discussion of the subject of parking, the EDC considered the challenge raised by current zoning restrictions on outside retail space (e.g., outside seating for restaurants) in town, and agreed that this is a topic appropriate for EDC consideration and possible input to the TC going forward.
4. A motion was made and passed unanimously to approve an amended press release on the creation and existence of the EDC. Dick Wilbur will forward the amended text to the Town webmaster for posting on the town website and distribution through normal Town media procedures. A second motion was made and approved unanimously to provide the Town webmaster with the amended text of a webpage on the EDC for inclusion in the Boards and Commissions' section of the Town website. Dick Wilbur will provide the amended text to the webmaster for uploading onto the Town website.

5. Next, the Meeting continued its consideration of the question of whether the Town should create and pay for a part-time Business Liaison (BL) or Economic Development position to support the Barrington business community. Jim Sanderson shared a comprehensive draft position description that served as a useful starting point for the discussions. Matt Amaral brought tax information from surrounding towns indicating that Barrington is at the lower end of business tax rates, and that, potentially, an increase in business taxes could fully or partially offset costs of a BL position. Someone pointed out that the Town had such a part-time position approximately ten years ago but at some point it was deemed no longer needed. Meeting agreed it would be important to look more into this, track down the last person to hold the position, and to invite Town Manager Peter DeAngelis to join us for a future discussion of the issue. All agreed to come prepared at the next meeting to continue the discussion; to review Jim's draft position description; to consider the need for a part-time or full-time position; to consider its placement in the Town structure, and relationship to the EDC; and to consider what would constitute a reasonable salary and possible sources of revenue to cover the costs of the position.
6. Food Trucks. Mark Etheridge presented on this topic, summarizing some of the specific discrepancies between how brick and mortar restaurants (and their mobile offshoots) in town are taxed and regulated in relation to out-of-town food trucks. In sum: food trucks are not well regulated, do not pay taxes to the Town, are becoming more intrusive (targeting school events, tournaments, etc.), do not hire local employees, and park wherever in town is conducive to business. Mark compared Barrington's lack of regulations with those of other towns, some of whom have put in place extensive and thorough regulations for food trucks. A quick review of Town ordinances showed that existing regulations appear to be outdated or incomplete when it comes to food trucks. Members were asked to consider what specific issues should be addressed in a potential Town ordinance on food trucks for discussion at next month's meeting.
7. The members reviewed the schedule for the next set of meetings, to include: January 21 and February 18.
8. Meeting adjourned at 8:48.