

Town of Barrington
Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2016

Members Present: Robert Humm, Jim Sanderson, Matt Amaral, Buddy Violet, Dick Wilbur and Robert Knychalski. **Absent:** Mark Etheridge.

1. Call to Order at 7:13PM.
2. Announcements: Rob Humm welcomed new member Rob Knychalski. He then noted that neither the new Food Truck Ordinance nor the Sign Ordinance were on the Town Council meeting agenda this month. The Town solicitor is still reviewing the draft Food Truck Ordinance, while the Town's Technical Review Committee is collating and synthesizing inputs submitted to the Town Council (including those of the EDC) regarding potential changes to the Sign Ordinance. Rob will circulate that synthesis document in the coming weeks.
3. Minutes of the September 15, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously with one abstention.
4. Rob Humm next addressed agenda items 4 and 5 together. He explained that he had emailed various Town officials to request updates on both the Village Center Streetscape and Wayfindings Improvements and redevelopment of the former Zion Bible Campus, but had had no response before the meeting. His understanding is that bids were submitted in July for the Village Center Streetscape and Wayfinding Improvements project but that there is as yet no further information on the Town website. Matt Amaral, as a local businessman and chairman of the Barrington Business Association, offered to look further into the project.
5. Under item 6, whether Barrington should hire a part-time or full-time Business Liaison, Rob Humm noted that this month we were to continue our series of discussions with relevant town officials. To that end, he had invited Bristol's recently-hired Economic Development Coordinator, Ms. Jessica Pflaumer, who unfortunately was unable to join us at the last minute. In addition, Ms. Michelle Jeremiah, Barrington's Director of Parks and Recreation, has hurt her back and was in no condition to join us this month. The Meeting returned to the question of Town-Business communications, and whether a consultant or local business student intern should be brought on board to assist Barrington with upgrading its communications processes and to develop a communications and marketing plan that would facilitate greater communication with the local business community. Matt Amaral noted that in a conversation with new Town Manager Jim Cunha he described the work and mandate of the EDC and that Mr. Cunha expressed strong interest in improving Town communications. Rob Humm noted that he would invite Mr. Cunha to a

forthcoming meeting in the New Year, and that he will place this topic and that of improved communications on the November Meeting agenda.

6. Under item 7, Rob reported on the recent Town Council Candidates' meeting, at which several candidates provided their views on the need for better support to the business community.
7. Under Item 8, the Meeting agreed that there would be a strong benefit to having EDC members attend the regular meetings of other Town Commissions in order to promote awareness of the EDC and to explain our mandate and topics of focus. As well, the Meeting agreed that we should invite chairs of the other commissions to attend our own meetings in the interest improved coordination/awareness raising.
8. Future Meetings will be held as noted in the agenda: November 17, December 15, January 19 (2007), February 16, March 16, and April 20. All meetings save April 20 (location TBD) will be held in the High School Library due to ongoing renovations of the Town Library's second floor.
9. During Open Discussion, Dick Wilbur floated the idea of inviting representatives of the Barrington 300 organization and the organizers of the annual Barrington Art Festival to brief us on their activities and to discuss possible business links. Matt Amaral noted that the Barrington Business Association will hold its annual Small Business Saturday program on November 26 and invited EDC members to learn more by attending the November 16 organizing meeting at the Black Pear. Buddy raised the question of whether the Town owned parcels of land designated/suitable for economic development, the development of which the EDC should manage.
1. The Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.