

DRAFT MINUTES

Exeter Economic Development Commission

March 27, 2018

Present: Ian Smith- Vice Chair, Darren Winham- Economic Development Director, Madeline Hamel, Mike Dawley, Dan Gutstein

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Mr. Ian Smith – Vice Chair.

We do not have a quorum tonight and there will be no Voting.

2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Postponed until April 24th meeting

3. **Discussion of Status on Implementation of the Matrix**

Ms. Hamel suggested that we table it until next Meeting on April 24th, 2018 when more Members are present.

4. **Debrief on election; what's next?**

Ms. Winham stated there is a new Select Board Chair – Ms. Julie Gilman. Ms. Gilman is a voting Member of the EDC. We currently are not sure which Select person from the Select Board will be attending our next meeting. We were aware of 2 people not being present today, Mr. Lang Plumer – Chair of the Planning Board and one of the people from the Select Board. Great news the initiative passed we needed 60% and it passed with somewhere between 67% to 68%, there will be a lot going on Epping Road. The other item on parking did not pass, but we will figure that out when it becomes an issue.

5. **Update on TIF Advisory Board**

Mr. Dawley feels there is no one that wants to do a study on the parking. As far as the TIF, last night the DPW was at the meeting and the discussion led to what about building before the traffic light is put in? Mr. Dawley states that Mr. Moynihan wanted us to go fast and it would be nice if we could build on parallel tracks.

Mr. Winham states that Mr. Moynihan will be coming to the Select Board to let the public know what his intentions are. Our plan is to be the most efficient and cost effective as possible. We are dedicated and believe to have all the resources we need. Also Don will be on the TIF Board.

Mr. Hamel asked if we had an article on business retention expansion.

Mr. Winham stated there was not.

6. Implementation of BR & E Program thru UNH

Mr. Winham states the Budget Committee and the Select Board both approved the BR & E and then had the budget pass. Now that the BR & E got approved we will be meeting with them at the next meeting. We also will need volunteers and all the help we can get.

Mr. Smith asked what the timing on the BR & E Program is.

Mr. Winham stated the program itself will take 3 years. It may take 2 years; they will run the whole program. Our job will be to facilitate and assist them as much as needed.

Ms. Hamel asked if UNH will send a representative to work out of the Town Office.

Mr. Winham stated that they will be running the program thru their corporate extension, were they will have a few people from their corporate extension come to our meetings. Once they obtain more input they will then come and negotiate with the EEDC Board.

Mr. Smith asked who will be leading them to come to the EEDC.

Mr. Winham said he would take care of that and then the Board can decide the accountability.

7. Economic Development Project Updates

Mr. Winham states there is a lot going on at Epping Road. There are several properties purchased and projects in the works. Also Tony is opening his Wine Bar shooting for the 1st of May. Another business going in where the Honeyhole is.

Mr. Dawley asked about the road project with Jonathan Shafmaster and where it stands at this point.

Mr. Winham stated that there is an agreement in place and they are going back and forth on the money. Also the occupancy rate right now downtown is 98%, which is great. From an economic stand point things are going really well.

Mr. Dawley stated there is a lot going on right now with the C1 Zoning Project, housing project, master planning, density and parking. It is an exciting time to see all the discussions, being creative and forceful.

Mr. Winham said that the Exeter Handkerchief Co property on Lincoln Street is a very valuable piece of property and fantastic location.

8. Updates

On Master Plan Steering Committee Process, Mr. Smith/Ms. Hamel – The Master Plan is online for anyone's review.

Planning Board, Mr. Plumer – No update

Housing Committee, Mr. Mueller – No update

Zoning Board of Adjustment – Should this be an Agenda Item?

Conservation Commission – No updates

Historic District Commission/ Heritage Commission – No updates

Ms. Hamel asked if the Board was officially or unofficially participating in the upcoming Small Business Showcase SST on April 4th 2018 at the Seacoast School of Technology, it is something that we interfaced with in the past and would be a good thing to support.

Mr. Winham states he did it 2 years in a row and it did not amount to anything, but it is certainly good to go and look around and good to support.

Next Meeting April 24th 2018

Adjournment: Mr. Smith- Vice Chair motioned to adjourn the meeting
Second by Mr. Dawley. The Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted.
Melody Hypolite