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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – November 16, 2021, Called to order
at 6:04pm

2022 JAN 21 AM 11:25

TOWN OF WILMINGTON, MA

Attendees:

Mike Champoux

Greg Maynard

Valerie Gingrich

Jared Constantino

Lilia Maselli

Carol Boisvert

Patrick Giroux

Suzanne Sullivan

Robert Oliveri

Miriam Nelson

1) Roll Call - all present

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2021 WEDC Meeting - approved

4) Report from Planning office Recent Projects – V. Gingrich

Call from a startup brewery (www.gildedskullbrewing.com/) who was interested in Wilmington's brewery prospects. Doesn't have the capital to start a brewery yet, but is looking for the brewery to be about the size of Idol Hands in Malden (about 50 seats). He's wondering if there's public money or partnerships he can get to get his brewery off the ground. Valerie will refer him to Maria (at DHCD) at the state or possible partners within Wilmington, eg. the Chamber of Commerce, to see if there are grants or something else available to him. Rob will also contact him. This interest in Wilmington as a location for a brewery is based on hearing about Wilmington's new brewery zoning change. As strictly a brewery, this would go in an industrial space.

a) Zoning articles for the 2022 Town Meeting - V. Gingrich

No updates yet, ongoing process.

b) Assistant Planner / Economic Development Coordinator - Status

At the last meeting, the committee asked Mr. Hull to consider having a full time Economic Development person instead of a hybrid position of Assistant Planner / Economic Development Coordinator. Mr. Hull

agreed to consider this, but ultimately decided to proceed with the hybrid position and reevaluate in the future depending on the nature of the work. Carol: With the funding that the town is receiving, it seems to be the best time to try to get a full-time Economic Development person. Suzanne: This decision may lead to us missing out on grant money that we may otherwise receive if we had a full-time person who could apply to grants. Mike: A hybrid position is better than nothing. So far, there are few qualified applicants for the assistant planner position. Salary is listed as up to \$74k. The committee discussed the merits of hiring an experienced or a newer person for the job.

5) LRRP FINAL PLAN

a) Relay to Press - Status

b) Posted to WEDC Site - Status

LRRP is on the town website [here](#). Mike will write up a press release to send to the Crier, Lowell Sun, and others. On Friday, Valerie has a call set up with DHCD to do the follow up for the project. They help assess what resources we have and recommend potential funding. As discussed in the Board of Selectmen meeting, the town is investing in consultants and a facade improvement grant program using ARPA funds.

6) Town Video – Distribute to Commercial R/E companies / Developers (Lil / Pat)

Will distribute the video. In addition to the video, there is still a need to create a brand for the town and get that brand out there.

7) High School Graphics Branding Project Update - Greg

Greg spoke with teachers about the project. The business teacher/DECA advisor said the timing was good for putting the project together and will try to see if this will be an extracurricular activity or a school assignment. We have about a month to get them a more substantial project outline.

8) New Business: Member statements & discussion agenda items for next / future meeting(s)

Suzanne: Beautify Wilmington initiative did some planting at Witfield. Got some interest from business owners about doing improvements. Discussed brief updates on the flags project.

Miriam will invite Karin who created www.hoptown01887.com/ to a future meeting.

9) Public Comments

10) Next Meeting Date - December 14, 2021 at 6:00PM

11) Adjourn - Motioned by Rob, seconded by Valerie. Meeting unanimously adjourned at 7:04PM