

EDC Meeting Minutes 10/28/2021

Chairman: Bob Nash

Commission Members: Sam Ivanov, Riche' Colcombe, Sara Edie

Town Administrator: Laura Buono

Planning Director: Robyn Payson

Supt of Schools: Patricia Parenteau

Excused: Patricia Parenteau

Selectman: Meleny Nagy

Members of the Public:

Guest: Susanne White

Meeting Minutes: 10/28/2021

Laura Buono made a motion to accept 10/7/21 meeting minutes, Sam Ivanov seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bob Nash reviewed the meeting schedule and confirmed 11/18 & 12/2 next EDC meeting. EDC will proceed with EDC meeting on fourth Thursday of the month in January.

Downtown Revitalization

Bob Nash advised that Mr. Kim Opperman is in the process of purchasing Rumrill Building & corner building on School & Main. Mr. Opperman intends to close on the two buildings next week. Mr. Opperman unavailable today though showed interest in attending a future EDC meeting.

EDC Social Media/Town Website – Bob Nash advised that we wish to be accessible to the towns people, plan to have an EDC meeting at a different time throughout the quarter. EDC will use the town Facebook page for any announcements while removing public comments and providing resource to reach committee. Content of the EDC section of the town website needs updating. Bob Nash suggested that the Chamber of Commerce and EDC work together to update 'Why Hillsborough' PowerPoint. Sam Ivanov suggested one sheet to discuss what is needed to open business on EDC site.

Hometown Grant

EDC has agreed to postpone submission of T-Mobile Hometown Grant until March 31st submission deadline based on continued interest in properties. Sam Ivanov supplied paragraph that may be used for grant if EDC elects to use grant for demolishing of 2 Bridge. Discussed list of potential projects for grant.

- Bridge Street – Zander currently away though Laura Buono will be contacting him to discuss meeting with BOS. Laura advised that she was contacted by New England Diesel regarding 2 & 8 Bridge as they would be interested in demoing 2 Bridge & converting 8 Bridge to apartments for their staff. Laura advised that the decision would need to be put in front of the BOS.

-Bridge to No Where – Discussed using funds for beautification of historic Bridge to No Where. Suggested a bridge of flowers. Property is town owned therefore town would be responsible for continued maintenance.

-Side Walk Project – Laura Buono advised highway department investigating soil to determine if leaching basin can be used which would be a financial saving. Moving of the cross walk has been approved by DOT. Town is still hopeful for construction next year. DOT 10 year plan does indicate project in 2025

given it's still in the preliminary design phase though Laura has been advised that if the project continues to move forward then the funding will be pushed forward when ready.

-Kemp Park – Laura Buono advised that they are still in the process of obtaining pricing. Laura advised that Masons had donated the band stand (Gazebo) and she will be following up to discuss funding of the preparation. Hansen House needs to be moved. Committee discussed the River Walk between Kemp Park & Grimes and adding kayak launch.

Fitness Walk - River Walk – Robyn Payson suggested fitness walk that would provide interest points & the project would be financially feasible. Sam Ivanov suggested that signage would be needed and safety concerns addressed. Laura advised that the area will be cut back in the spring.

-Woods Woolen Mill – Laura Buono advised that the Woods Woolen Mill has been found to not be a historical site. Area is a brown field and EPA will be funding the removal/clean up. Towns owns two parcels which are separated by rail trail. Robyn advised that there was a previous plan to turn the parcels into a park. Laura confirmed that the board has not discussed lately how to move forward. Suggested covered walking bridge over river from Woods Woolen Mill to downtown.

-Parking Signage – Bob Nash advised that the funds may be able to be used for signage for town parking.

-Dog Park – Sara Edie suggested using the funds for a dog park in town as other grant accepters have used the funding in this way. Discussed upkeep of the park would be difficult. Sam Ivanov suggested indoor facility that could be maintained and dogs vaccination records confirmed would be a better fit.

Collaboration/Involvement

Riche Colcombe inquired about possibility of discussion with zoning board to not approve variance of first floor apartments in downtown business district as it is counter intuitive to efforts in revitalizing downtown business district. Robyn advised zoning board cannot be met with in that capacity as it is a quasi-judicial board. Laura advised that a town committee should not be trying to stop property owners. Discussed ability to provide residential parking would need to be considered by zoning board. Meleny Nagy advised that there are wheelchair bound individuals who also require access to living quarters.

Sara Edie inquired if the town would consider having a collaboration of committees/boards therefore all committees were aware of the direction of the committees. Susanne White inquired about the ability to obtain a cable tv channel for Hillsborough news where committees could publish details and create more community involvement. Laura advised that the cable tv channel is not part of the current cable contract therefore there is no benefit for the cable company to offer the channel. Sam Ivanov inquired if Facebook live could be used as a resource. Discussed the time of meetings appears to be an issue in meeting attendance. Discussed having a town meeting at a different time which would include presentation by committees to discuss current/future plans.

Sara Edie inquired if the school has considered a town paper written by the students which would allow the town a place to provide information and get students involved. Laura advised that with new hire on board there has been consideration of a town newsletter where each board could submit information.

Meeting Adjourned 10:16am.