

EDC Meeting Minutes 05/17/2023

Approved: 06/23/23

Chairperson: Robyn Payson, Laura Buono-pro tem

Vice Chairperson: Riche' Colcombe

Commission Members: Riché Colcombe, Sam Ivanov, Kim Opperman, Bob Nash,

Town Administrator: Laura Buono

Planning Director: Robyn Payson

Planning Board: Susanne White

Chamber of Commerce: Keith Cobbett

Supt of Schools: Jennifer Crawford

Select Board:

Water/Sewer Dept:

Excused: Sam Ivanov, Bob Nash, Keith Cobbett

Public: None

Meeting Minutes: 03/29/23

Riche' Colcombe made a motion to approve the minutes. Susanne White seconded the motion the motion carried unanimously.

EDC Projects

Laura suggested developing a “fitness area” possibly at Grimes Field. She said there were grants available to support it and it would be a great amenity for the town. The commission members present agreed. Other locations for the fitness area were discussed but the consensus was that Grimes Field would likely be the best location due to the number of people who are attending games and recreating there.

Another suggestion was to sustain business and continue to highlight the Town of Hillsborough through the Town website. Several new businesses have come to town over the past few months and the activity we have been hoping for seems to be coming.

Riche' Colcombe said she is working with the new owner of 8 Bridge (and possible future owner of 2 Bridge) street to try and find businesses for his commercial space. New owner Angelo Trudella has plans to keep commercial uses on the street level of the buildings and rent apartments on the upper floors.

Susy White suggested providing broad band internet town wide. There was a brief discussion.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Robyn Payson said there were three submissions for the CEDS. One was for the final clean up and redevelopment of the Woods Woolen Mill site. There was discussion about a possible foot bridge to span the river and connect it to the downtown.

Robyn Payson said she spoke with Mindy Bubier of DES about it and she said it would be difficult especially because there is no place to connect the bridge on the other side. Kim Opperman said he would grant an easement to the town for the bridge. Robyn Payson said she would have to look further into the permitting that would be required.

Robyn Payson said the second submission was a complete streets application for Henniker Street that would run from the area of the Volvo business to Grimes Field to create safe passage for pedestrian and bicyclists.

The third submission was for the clean up of the Associated Electric site.

Town Administrator's Update.

Associated Electric

Laura Bono said the town is working with DES and Sanborn Head (worked with the town on Woods Woolen Mill) on the testing and the clean-up. Air quality tests are being performed and the Spill Response Team is coming in to address the barrels located on the site. Testing is ongoing.

Woods Woolen Mill

Laura Buono said that down at the Woods Woolen Mill site a group of volunteers met to plant 50 trees that were donated by the Merrimack River Watershed. This is part of the comprehensive redevelopment plan developed by Streamworks. Members of DES were present and toured the site and discussed the future restoration and redevelopment of the site.

2 Bridge Street

Laura Buono said there was only one bid (submitted by Angelo Trudel) for 2 Bridge Street. If the Town sells it to him, they are going to want an agreement to protect the Town in case construction stalls. It is anticipated that work will be starting sooner rather than later.

Robyn Payson reported that she, the Building Inspector, Fire Chief, Road Agent and Laura had a meeting recently with Jack Franks of Avanru Development about the future plans of his development. He is under agreement on an abutting piece of property where he plans on putting an elderly housing development, a market rate condo development and possibly single-family housing. He will be constructing a complete sidewalk along the existing road that travels from the workforce housing development to West Main Street. So far his funding has fallen into place. Riche' Colcombe has been working with Avanru on the state level to make the case for his development. Thanks to Riche' Avanru is on track for approval by the executive committee on the 30th of May for the ARPA funds.

There being no further business Susanne White made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kim Opperman seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned 10:30 am

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Payson, Planning Director