

## **Hillsborough EDC Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2017**

Present: Robyn Payson, Jack Wells, Susanne White, Robyn Payson, Laura Buono, Robert Hasset, Dana Brien

Meeting called to order at 9:04am by Jack Wells

**Minutes of 1/26 meeting** - Susanne White made a motion to approve the minutes. Laura Buono seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Economic Base Chapter of the Master Plan** – Went to the Planning Board. They are providing feedback and it will be dealt with next week.

**By-Laws** – Committee reviewed the proposed edits to the EDC By-laws. A few minor grammatical corrections were suggested, but committee will wait until more members are present to vote on these.

**Signs** – New parking signs are in the Planning Office. Committee will need to collaborate with the Highway Department in the spring to get them put up.

**Business Retention and Expansion Program** – This is coming along, though we need as many volunteers as possible to visit businesses to deliver the survey. Three training sessions will be offered - each volunteer needs to attend only one. Dana will work on reserving the Fire Station for all 3 sessions.

**Planning Director Update** – Wal-Mart is progressing. They are working with DOT and their DES application has been submitted. Concerns are being heard in the community, but Robyn expressed that this project is not going to stop, be left undone or abandoned.

**Member Terms** - Russell Galpin's term is up this year. Susanne White to fill member vacancy with approval of selectmen. Note that Robert Hasset should appear in Town of Hillsborough Annual Report 2016 as Supt. Of Schools Ex Officio.

**Town Administrator Update** – Decrease in town portion of the tax rate is due to a change in valuation after the tax rate was set. PD would like to hire a part-time attorney to prosecute their criminal cases and they would also like to add 10 hours to a part-time position that already exists to make the position full-time. There is also a new employee in the Highway Department budget; it will be a heavy equipment operator and mechanic to help out.

**Superintendent of Schools Update** -

- School News - It's college acceptance season, so this is an exciting, positive time for the HS. Also, Osram gave a generous donation to start up a robotics team, the Oscats - their first competition is coming up in Redding, MA. S
- Community Outreach - Still struggling to get the word out to the community about what's going on in the schools; there are systems in place like Storify for HS and an ES blog, but these methods don't seem to be far reaching.
- Budget - Facing budget challenges due to State and Federal revenues being down. Contract with the paraprofessionals has been settled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Blevens, Secretary