



Town of Barnstable
Planning & Development Department
Barnstable Economic Development Task Force
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2020

Members Present: Alison Maloney (Chair), Matthew Eddy, Chuck Carey Roy Catignani, Dan Ojala, Phil Boudreau, Jacob Dewey, Mark Sexton

Members Absent: Jason Siscoe, Paul Niedzwiecki, Bob Cody

Staff: Elizabeth Jenkins – Director Planning & Development, Gloria McPherson – Planning and Economic Development Coordinator, Jennifer Engelsen – Office Manager, Planning and Development Department, Arden Cadrin – Housing Coordinator

Others: Paul Hebert – President, Town Council, Jessica Rapp Grasseti – Vice President, Town Council, Eric Steinhilber – Town Council Liaison, Paula Schnepf – Town Councilor, Mark Ells – Town Manager, Peter Burke – Chief, Hyannis Fire Department and Bronwen Walsh – Barnstable Patriot.

Alison called the meeting to order. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Roy. A correction to the word “conscience”, it needs to be changed to consensus was made by Mark.

A discussion regarding the effects of Covid-19 was had. Chuck noted that the local businesses need assistance recovering from closures. Alison stated that businesses are going to be behind when closures are lifted. Roy feels that the restaurants are going to be open at the last possible minute. Phil is hoping that the Board of Health is being proactive and reaching out to owners now to be sure permits are in place to open. Outdoor seating and possible parking lot accommodations will have to be looked at for the season. Elizabeth shared that restaurants that are currently up to date on inspections for the year are all set with the Board of Health. Seasonal operations will have to be looked at and seating capacity requirements will change. Mark Sexton informed that group that 2000 applications for loans for restaurant and seasonal business have had funds dispersed and not being able to open is a concern for businesses. We have to get people back to work safely.

Mark Ells said it is critical that the Town of Barnstable move from response to recovery regarding Covid-19. He meets with senior staff and other local staff daily. We have 180+ employees working remotely and hoping to get back to whatever our new “normal” is going to be.

Roy spoke about technology and the challenges of email being the only way to communicate. Sometimes you cannot reach an employee by phone and with town offices being closed; you cannot go in for face to face interactions and phone calls are either not answered or returned. Mark Ells asked Roy to please give him specific numbers he is calling because employees are answering phones.

Jake said business owners are going to have to be creative going forward. He suggested a point person like Maggie Flynn, Permit Coordinator be a person to run ideas by on how to open in Barnstable.

Eric Steinhilber asked the group to please share concerns they hear with the Town Manager and Town Councilors. This information can help the town be proactive moving into recovery.

Roy inquired if any fees were getting relief. Mark Ells said the slip payments have been modified and are broken into smaller increments over a longer period of time. He stated we need revenue to run government. Residents in the town need to be aware before they purchase beach stickers, golf memberships and boat things may not be opened.

Housing was discussed next. Chuck began the discussion with something Rick Penn shared with the group earlier, “retail follows residential”! We need to build or convert existing buildings into apartments. There are properties right in the thick of walk around areas downtown. Chuck inquired as the status of the form based code changes. Elizabeth shared that the team is drafting an ordinance and will have a full draft for public consideration in a month or so. Infrastructure needs to be in place in order to create density. Vice President Rapp Grasseti would like to see density spread throughout the town not just focus on Hyannis. She would like to see a public/private partnership with the town because of the assets that are vacant town wide. The vacant school in Marstons Mills would be a place for housing ranging from seniors to families.

Matt shared information on the GPWP changes. The language could be modified regarding the impervious coverage aspect to be sure we are recharging the groundwater. The other modification that would be more involved is regarding hazardous material quantity relating to automotive uses, etc. Mark Ells encouraged the group to follow the town's efforts on future public water supply wells and to speak and share knowledge and be supportive.

Roy gave an update on the water/moorings sub-committee. There is nautical commerce that is being overlooked. The committee brought forward ideas and is hopeful to come before the council soon. We would like to create a waterfront access task force. Areas would be re-mapping moorings, transient moorings, transient slips, access to ramps and redevelopment of land near Kalmus. The hope is to attract out of town visitors to the waterfront and shop on Main Street and go to the local restaurants. Vice President Rapp Grasseti spoke to parking in her precinct being the biggest barrier. Mark Ells talked about using what the town has and an opportunity to create more dock space inside Kalmus and some type of marine center.

Elizabeth circulated a first draft of a Downtown Hyannis webpage for the committee to look at, make comments and suggestions and send those thoughts back to her. She wanted to be sure to thank Tom Chartrand for the video he did for Main Street Hyannis. Elizabeth will reach out to Ali to discuss a plan for reopening local restaurants.

Ali thanked the Town Councilors and Town Manager for being present today. President Hebert thanked the task force for their efforts and work. He would like to get the water sub-committee in front of the council soon.

Mark Ells would like a check list of what needs to be tackled. It seems like the group is still discussing some of the same issues from the beginning.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 22, 2020 at 12:00 PM.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Roy and seconded by Matt, all in favor. The meeting closed at 2:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Engelsen – Planning and Development Department