

Economic Development Commission
Feb. 13 2020
Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Chair Jeremy Rosner, Vice Chair Tobi Nwangwu, Shawn Flynn, Clio Nicolakis, Debbie Brander and staff Betsy Yagla

1. At 7:07 p.m. Chair Jeremy Rosner called the meeting to order.
2. There was no public comment.
3. Ms. Nicolakis made a motion to approve the November 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Flynn seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Mr. Flynn made a motion to approve the January 2020 meeting minutes; Ms. Nicolakis seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

4. REX Development presentation regarding CEDS
Ginny Kozlowski and Barbara Malmberg of REX Development delivered a presentation regarding the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
5. Commercial Property Owners Forum
Mr. Rosner updated the group on the outcome of the two forums. He said that owners were most interested in sidewalks, taxes, traffic and beautification but not as presented.

The EDC agreed to continue working on a beautification plan that was more in line with the property owners' goals.

The EDC also agreed that it was important to follow up with all property owners about the meeting and any next steps.

6. Tax Abatements
Ms. Nicolakis and Mr. Nwangwu led a discussion about tax abatements and presented a proposed ordinance and cover letter on behalf of EDC outlining the program.

There was discussion regarding the amount of an abatement and the length of time that an abatement would be phased in.

Mr. Flynn made a motion to recommend the proposed ordinance to the Board of Selectmen with changes to the maximum years and percentages allowed by the State. Ms. Brander seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

7. Community Council

Ms. Brander updated the EDC on the activities of the Ad Hoc Community Council, which she co-chairs. The Community Council is creating a Welcome to Woodbridge program and will ask business for a \$250 sponsorship to put their logos on reusable bags that will be distributed to new residents. The bags will contain useful information for new residents.

8. Staff Report

Ms. Yagla gave an update on the business marketing efforts including the “Love Your Local” campaign and the upcoming Woodbridge Wellness Week.

9. At 9 pm Mr. Nwangwu made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brander seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.