

Town of Eliot

Business Development Committee-Meeting Minutes-January 6, 2010

Present: John Chagnon, Craig Goss, Russ McMullen, Kristin McMullen-Orr, Betsy O'Donoghue, Dwight Snow, Doug Keith

Call to order: John Chagnon-5:09pm

Public Comment: none

Review of Agenda: Agreed upon. Doug Keith wanted to address the idea of possibly using a consent agenda in the future. Chairman Chagnon added the request for discussion to today's agenda.

Review of Minutes: December 2nd, meeting minutes reviewed. Motion to accept; Kristin Orr; Russ M. 2nd; all approved.

Time of Meeting: Russ McMullen addressed the committee on the possibility of a time change for scheduled committee meetings. Russ has a conflict for the coming year. Meetings are typically scheduled for the 4th Weds on the month at 5:00pm. A request was made to move that time to 4:30pm.

The chairman entertained discussion. Committee members agreed that 4:30 would be acceptable moving forward.

Business Registration ordinance: Selectman Betsy O'Donoghue advised the committee that our proposed business registration ordinance has been tabled by the board of selectman until such time as the board has completed special elections and retains full membership. A discussion ensued with committee members wanting to know the selectman's initial perceptions of the ordinance. Betsy emphasized a perception by the selectman over a concern as to whether the ordinance can be enforced and whether some sort of enforcement clause might be needed in the ordinance.

The committee reminded Selectman O'Donoghue that there are 310+/- businesses doing business in Eliot and only 120 +/- are on the tax rolls. The committee reaffirmed their strong support of this ordinance and willingness to work with the selectman in its future form to get a business registration ordinance passed.

Building Height (Proposed Ordinance change): Dwight Snow confirmed a letter had been sent to the Fire chief. No response had been given back to the committee as of this meeting. Dwight relayed to us that the planning board is in the "middle" of looking at the Height ordinance issue. Dwight said it was part of an overall planning board review being done. Dwight recommended to the committee that we send another letter to the planning board reemphasizing our height recommendation of 55ft and to recommend screening of utilities on rooftops.

Committee Direction (Meet with board of Selectman): Chairman Chagnon recommended this be added to the agenda due to upcoming special election of Selectman and a changing board.

The Chairman feels we may need some input from Selectman on where they stand and what they want to accomplish. The open question being is our agenda in sync with that of the BOS. We have taken a pro business stance that can only be effective if it is supported by the BOS. The chairman therefore feels a meeting with the new BOS may be in order.

Kristin Orr proposed submitting a letter to the BOS to get on an upcoming BOS agenda. It was agreed by the committee that we need to make sure our goals are in line with the BOS and if they are not then our need to exist becomes mute.

Consent Agenda: An added meeting agenda item requested by Doug Keith. A consent agenda as described by Doug could help us with housekeeping issues in order to shorten our meeting agenda to leave time for nuts and bolts discussion as opposed to housekeeping items. The idea was discussed and tabled. The question for future is do we have enough housekeeping items to warrant a consent agenda?

Eliot Business after hours: Next event January 13th. Chairman Chagnon (Ambit Engineering) and Doug Keith (Morgan Stanley-Smith Barney) have agreed to be joint sponsors for the event. They have completed arrangements with the Regatta. The chairman mentioned how co-sponsoring works well for this event and felt we should talk this up at the event, emphasizing the value you get for your money as a sponsor. Kristin confirmed Flyers are out and reminded all committee members to do their best to get them posted. She also confirmed we had a free plug in the Foster's and one forthcoming in the Herald announcing the event. Kristin asked each member to "talk up" the event to maximize participation.

May 12th was the tentative date discussed for the next Business after hours.

Eliot Trade Show (April 2010): Kristin O. emphasized that she would like to be able to announce the showcase and have registration forms and flyers ready at the Business after hour's event. A couple items were discussed at this meeting. Doug Keith presented preliminary ideas and layout for a flyer. Craig G. did not have a complete registration form ready, but promised to have one to Kristin for the following day.

Kristin did confirm that the Regatta was available and felt it should be used. All agreed. The room fee was discussed at \$1200 for the event. Forty Four tables would be available in this location.

The committee discussed shortening the previously discussed "Early bird" time frame.

A second EBDC meeting on Jan. 27th will be used to discuss further details of the Business Showcase.

Sign Project: The sign is in production with Raitt signs. The Chairman mentioned that Raitt signs felt the verbiage on the back of the sign needs to be addressed. Further discussion will take place at next meeting.

Business Development: No New letters this month. **New Business:** None

Next Meeting: January 27th, 4:30pm Eliot Town Hall

Adjourned: 6:50pm