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4/18/16

**Business Development Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of 3/21/16**

RECEIVED
APR 19 2016
BY: Wendy Rawski
Town Clerk

Attending: Melissa Horner, Russ McMullen, Diane Schroeder, Rick Bates and Dana Lee

The meeting began at 5:45 pm. Chairman Horner expressed concern about the fate of the committee and whether it was worth continuing to meet. She said attendance had been low, no businesses came forward after the last Business After Hours and businesses did not seem to care about the EBDC efforts.

Diane said the business community that she spoke with was rather depressed about their lot in Eliot. She felt we should continue to try and change the anti-business culture of recent years. She expressed hope that there must be some active business people out there interested in changing the culture.

Rick said he felt the same as Melissa. No longer a purpose to promote business in a town where it is not wanted. Russ said that a handful of people had led the town down this path starting with the Rte 236 vote. These same people have attempted to limit growth, commercial activity, and generally, progress. He also said that no efforts had been made to make important (Comp Plan) zoning changes on Rte 236, and that many businesses are clamoring to be on that route. Russ felt that the business people need representation and may be ready to act.

Discussion then turned to a possible Business After Hours in May prior to any budget / voting. Dana noted that it appeared that an option for using TIF money under the original TIF plan would be in play in June.

It was suggested that any BAH be a business meeting more than a networking meeting to discuss: Upcoming votes / options, having them organize and attend PB meetings, Selectmen meetings, etc. and push for addressing the Comp Plan suggested zoning changes.

Melissa said she would check with the Regatta for a meeting date of May 4, 11 or 18 at 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Russ was assigned to note the top three zoning changes that should have been made by now (7 years later).

Dana said he would try to draft a meeting agenda.

The BDC will meet again on 4/13 to finalize dates and agenda, and then again of 4/18 to send out invites / emails.

Respectfully submitted,


Dana K. Lee