

**Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2021**

A meeting of the Economic Development Committee was held on August 23, 2021 via remote participation pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order Imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place.

Present from the Committee: Vice Chairman Marc Becker, and Members Andrew Jolda, Carole Marchand, and Dale Viger.

Present - Ex Officio Members: Town Administrator Doug Willardson, Director of Community Development Carol Cyr; and Director of Planning & Economic Development Ann Morgan.

Vice Chairman Becker called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

1. Action Items

a. Reorganization

Motion to nominate Carole Marchand as Chairwoman made by Mr. Jolda, seconded by Mr. Becker. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote (Mr. Jolda – AYE; Mr. Becker – AYE; Ms. Marchand – AYE; Ms. Viger – AYE).

Motion to nominate Marc Becker as Vice Chairman made by Ms. Marchand, seconded by Mr. Jolda. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote (Mr. Jolda – AYE; Mr. Becker – AYE; Ms. Marchand – AYE; Ms. Viger – AYE).

b. Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2021 Draft Minutes: The Committee reviewed the draft minutes. No edits were made. It was noted that members present at the February meeting were not present to vote and that some of the members had since resigned. The Committee invoked the rule of necessity in order to vote on the matter. Motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 2, 2021 as drafted made by Mr. Becker, seconded by Ms. Marchand. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote (Mr. Jolda – AYE; Mr. Becker – AYE; Ms. Marchand – AYE; Ms. Viger – AYE).

March 1, 2021 Draft Minutes: The Committee reviewed the draft minutes. No edits were made. . It was noted that members present at the February meeting were not present to vote and that some of the members had since resigned. The Committee invoked the rule of necessity in order to vote on the matter. Motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 1, 2021 as drafted made by Mr. Jolda, seconded by Mr. Becker. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote (Mr. Jolda – AYE; Mr. Becker – AYE; Ms. Marchand – AYE; Ms. Viger – AYE).

July 12, 2021 Draft Minutes: The Committee reviewed the draft minutes. No edits were made. . It was noted that members present at the February meeting were not present to vote and that some of the members had since resigned. The Committee invoked the rule of necessity in order to vote on the matter. Motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 12, 2021 as drafted made by Ms. Viger, seconded by Mr. Becker. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote (Mr. Jolda – AYE; Mr. Becker – AYE; Ms. Marchand – AYE; Ms. Viger – AYE).

2. Staff Report – Town Administrator Updates

Mr. Willardson welcomed Dale Viger, newest member of the Committee. Ms. Viger introduced herself noting that she was pleased to be serving the Town and the Committee.

The Town has received funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) some of which will be used to provide grants to local businesses, non-profit groups and property owners impacted by COVID-19. The details are still being worked out. Ms. Cyr, Ms. Marchand, Ms. Morgan and Mr. Willardson are working on the application which will be posted on the website and sent out to interested parties once ready.

Mr. Willardson and Ms. Morgan have been assisting the consulting team and the Town of Dudley to advance the Webster Dudley Urban Center Housing Tax Increment Financing (UCH-TIF). The district has been identified and includes the Stevens Mill area in Dudley and an area in Webster bordered by the French River and Pleasant Street. Public hearings are scheduled before the Board of Selectmen in both Webster and Dudley so that it can go to Town Meeting in both towns. Properties included in the District would be eligible for economic development incentives from the State and could negotiation tax increment financing locally. Each project would have to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting in order to go forward. Presently the Town of Dudley has been working on a Urban Center Housing Tax Increment Financing Agreement for a mixed use (housing, retail, commercial space) at the Stevens Mill.

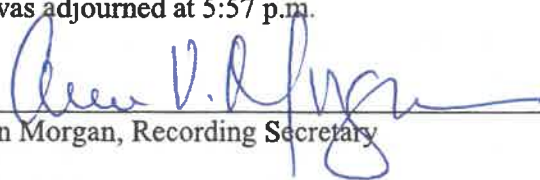
Mr. Willardson noted that some of the money in the Economic Development fund approved at Town Meeting continues to be used to be used for municipal projects such as landscaping, planters and other improvements along Main Street and East Main Street.

3. Next Meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via remote participation / Zoom.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Jolda, seconded by Mr. Becker. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote (Mr. Jolda – AYE; Mr. Becker – AYE; Ms. Marchand – AYE; Ms. Viger – AYE). The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.



Ann Morgan, Recording Secretary



Date

EXHIBITS – none.