



TOWN OF NORTON

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2023 APR 14 AM 8:40
Town Clerk Date/ Time Stamp

Board/ Committee: Economic Development Commission

Meeting Date: Monday, January 9, 2023 Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY (Public Welcome)

- To join via phone only: 646.558.8656, Meeting ID: 830 1560 5351, Passcode: 98765
- To join virtually online:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83015605351?pwd=cEdlZmU3eTlablZSbThRNzdpOXoxUT09> or
- To join using the Zoom app enter Meeting ID 830 1560 5351, Passcode: 98765

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- Call to Order: 7:01pm
- Present: Renee Deley, Kevin Snyder, Steve Warchal, and Julie Oakley
- Discussion and or vote of the following topics:
 1. Introduction and discussion with new Planning and Economic Development Director Maria De La Fuente Martinez
 - a. Maria provided her background and expectations in her role. She worked in Sharon prior to Norton. She hopes to work on future grants including MassWorks for the Elm Street Sewer Connections. She wants to do technical assistance to small businesses to help set up websites (similar to what she did in Sharon). She would also like to work with Norton businesses and looking to advertise businesses on social media.
 - b. She is also interested in using the Fall River model for a regional business website. She is looking to connect with Fall River about how they did it as well as talk to the planners in neighboring towns for a regional effort.
 - c. She is also looking to pick up the work done on the life science overlay that Paul started.
 - d. Group discussion on sewer line locations, future grant opportunities, the MBTA zoning requirements, and zoning clean-up grant.
 2. Liquor License Review Process
 - a. June Town Meeting approved the process to increase the number of liquor licenses. It is in front of the State for formal review per standard operating procedure. This review process is an extra check and balance system for the liquor licenses. The document is being completed in the next few weeks and it will go to the Select Board for approval. The document was reviewed during the meeting by the EDC and those present in attendance.

3. Business updates
 - a. Bog Iron just had their 10-year anniversary.
 - b. Wheaton has about 2,000 students now. The staff Steve talked to said they are in need of student housing. Kevin discussed if the Select Board should have a member liaison with the College. Renee had served in that role in the past.
4. Planning updates
 - a. Master Plan action items
 - i. Discussion and prioritization of the items in the Master Plan for the EDC. They are:
 1. Permitting Process and Guide for Businesses to come to Norton
 2. Business Organization in Norton - Maria gave an update on what the businesses are doing to try and start this association. Steve Hornsby from the Select Board is on this committee. They are also looking at business lists and category of businesses. Discussion sounded like a good topic to work together on. Maria and Kevin will work on bringing these efforts together.
 3. Rail Trail and business connection as a place to see where the two uses could be mutually beneficial (like food trucks)
 4. Sewer Expansion – Also discussed earlier in the meeting and a joint meeting with Water/Sewer would be a good first step and a map of where sewer is currently.
 5. Village Center – Update zoning for more compact zoning
 6. Zoning Overlays – Like life sciences mentioned in the earlier meeting. Also discussed the MassDOT property.
 7. Feasibility for Great Woods Marketplace – on hold until 40B is complete
 8. Placemaking / Wayfinding – Good for the business association to get involved in too. Mario thinks there might be a grant for this and will check the files.
 9. Town/Gown – Who is our contract at Wheaton which Kevin will lead.
 - b. Local business outreach: Database and Agenda review for Phase 1 to include 50 businesses
 - i. Maggie has organized the list by address and color coded them as well. Next step is mapping this and working with the start of the Norton Business Association to see what parallel efforts are taking place. Kevin will reach out to this group to establish a connection.
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes: MRS 9/23/20, 9/24/20, 10/8/20, 10/21/20, 10/29/20; 8/3/2022, 8/17/2022, 9/12/2022, 10/19/2022, 12/19/2022
 - a. None discussed at this meeting.

- Other Business: Topics not Reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

- Next Meeting Date: January 23, 2023
- Future Meeting Topics:
 1. Mobile Food Vendors Process (BOH)
 2. Zoning and Overlay Discussion (lead by Steve)
 3. Planning updates
 - Collaboration with Parks & Rec (Planning Dept business list)
 - Collaboration with Veterans' Services
 4. Updates on vacant commercial properties
 - Bylaw and/or registration of vacancy/abandonment
 5. Neighborhood Association discussion
 6. Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce
- Adjourned: 9:24pm

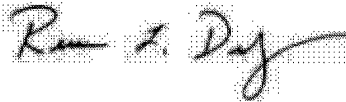
Please note it is possible that a vote or votes may be taken by the Commission regarding the above agenda items.

Meeting Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeL14QMUKAo&t=11s>

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Julie Oakley

Minutes approved by the Commission on: April 12, 2023

Chairman Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron A. Day", is written over a light gray dotted rectangular background.