

RICHMOND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

January 12, 2016 – MINUTES

Call to order: 9:05 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Woodmansee, Ed Smith, Joe Sheehan, Meredith Westner

GUESTS: Karen Pinch, Henry Oppenheimer

MOTION: Approve November 2015 Meeting Minutes [Ed Smith/Joe Sheehan 2nd/All in Favor]

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion on selection of EDC chairperson, vice-chairperson, and clerk. Various members had concerns as to their ability to commit the time necessary and their seniority, etc. Joe Sheehan: Motion to elect the following slate: Larry Casey as chair, David Woodmansee as vice-chair, and Meredith Westner as clerk. Motion was retracted before it could be second. David Woodmansee to contact Larry Casey about interest in chair before vote to be taken. NO VOTES.

OLD BUSINESS

- Update on Richmond logo from Town Administrator Pinch: There has been no response to date from the State of Rhode Island. Council Member Oppenheimer suggested that the committee reach out to URI as this would be a great “real-world” opportunity for an unpaid internship for a student. Meredith Westner will contact the appropriate department at URI. David Woodmansee suggested offering a small scholarship to the creator of the best design to entice several students to participate. Council Member Oppenheimer stated that it would require us to make a request to the council to use our EDC funds in that manner. David Woodmansee also agreed to contact Chariho High School for potential students to work on the logo design. NO VOTES
- David Woodmansee has been in contact with the town planner and a procedure has been put in place to formally request agenda items for our meetings from the planner’s office before the meeting agenda is constructed each month. Joe Sheehan said that the EDC might be helpful in moving projects along if we were made aware of the “tire kickers” and not just projects that made significant progress with the planner. NO VOTES
- No EDC members were available to attend the site walk at The Preserve at Boulder Hills. Council Member Oppenheimer indicated that the zoning is already in place for the hotel, there is no required action from council to move forward, it is now up to planning. NO VOTES

- David Woodmansee reported that there would be an open workshop coming up in the near future for Richmond Commons. The date had not been set at this time. Packets were being developed by Nick Cambio's group and would be available at the clerk's office for anyone to review prior to the meeting. NO VOTES
- Meredith Westner is working on a new concepts for the existing farmers market held on the town hall property. She indicated that the current market is shrinking and that it is mainly due to the way that the group is managed. They are unwilling to change their by-laws to be more inclusive/receptive of Richmond farmers, artists, and businesses. Council Member Oppenheimer reminded us that they have an annual agreement for certain weeks, but that their use of the lawn is not exclusive. Town Administrator Pinch requested that Meredith provide her proposal to EDC members via email for review and that the concept be addressed next month after EDC members had time to formulate ideas. NO VOTES
- Ed Smith inquired to as to how often the planning or zoning boards do not have enough members for a hearing. Ed is still trying to have is awning approved and the board did not have enough members to hear his request. It was rescheduled for the next month when Ed will be out of town and even more inconvenienced by the process. Council Member Oppenheimer indicated that there should not be an issue at a hearing, but occasionally there are not enough members at a meeting. NO VOTES
- Town Administer Pinch requested that David Woodmansee work with the town clerk's office to be sure that all meeting minutes were properly on file. NO VOTES

MOTION: Adjourn 10:30 AM [Ed Smith/Meredith Westner 2nd/All in Favor]