



## Economic Development Commission - Richmond, Rhode Island

---

### Meeting

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 6:00 pm

Richmond Community Center, 1168 Main Street (Second Floor), Wyoming, RI 02898

(401) 539-9000x9 / edcrichmondri@gmail.com

### MINUTES

Members in Attendance: William McIntosh, Joe Reddish, Bryan Lebeau, David Woodmansee

Guests in Attendance: none

**CALL TO ORDER** at 6:28 by William McIntosh

### MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes from March 14, 2022

*[MOTION to approve the minutes from March 14, 2022 by Joe Reddish, second Bryan Lebeau, ALL AYE]*

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Marketing Richmond Businesses Initiative

- a. Response from CHS

- b. Determine the next step

-WM: met with Karen Pinch. She is willing to help with whatever it takes to get EDC website up and running

-JR: we need to look at the pages of other towns to see how we should lay it out

-JR: the QR code should just be a quick launch into the EDC page

-WM: what platform is the town built on?

-JR: town website has not been updated in 12 years

-WM: there must be a student at CHS interested and capable of re-designing town site

-JR: yes, but design is different from maintenance. We need something that we can be easily maintain

-WM: we have a database of 149 Richmond businesses, but there are another 50-60 home-based business that are not included yet

-JR: that is a perfect opportunity for a CHS student to load these businesses into the database

-WM: it seems like our next step should be connecting Karen Pinch with someone at CHS to discuss programming platform/language to allow them to build

-JR: we actually have 2 items for Karen; we should be advising that it is time to upgrade the town website. It is possible for a CHS or URI student to help with development

-WM: I will contact CHS about working to develop our own site which will be linked from the Richmond page

2. Preparation for 19-APR-2022 Council Meeting

- a. Budget Request

-BL: Exeter has a \$1500 capitol fund that carries forward from year to year; Charlestown has a \$2500 budget; two other local towns have EDC members as elected positions and there is no specific line item in the budgets

-WM: we must demonstrate why we need an increased budget, like marketing of EDC, advertisement of vacancies with RI EDC, sponsoring community events in town, and website development

-WM: Lets make a list of 5 points to present to council

**-JR: An increased budget will allow the EDC to help build business investment (commercial tax base) in Richmond. Our long term goal is to flatten the tax burden on residents by increasing the business presence in town by 1% per year. By implementing a smart growth strategy and demonstrating that Richmond is an investible area, we will attract the appropriate businesses, as indicated in our Comprehensive Plan.**

-General discussion by all members resulted in the following list to present to Council:

- \*Design and implement a new EDC Website. This will be a fresh portal for potential businesses that presents Richmond as business friendly, effectively asking visitors “How can we help you open your business in our town?” The site will also list and assist in marketing the available commercial properties and vacant or underused locations to real estate agents, investors, and the RI Commerce Corporation.
- \*Develop a guide for new business on “How to do Business in Richmond.” This will be a collection of contacts at Town Hall with a potential roadmap for navigation, State and local resources available to businesses, contacts for utilities and business services, and demographics about Richmond and the surrounding area.
- \*Create a campaign specifically to drive residents to shop local in Richmond.
- \*Researching, identifying, and marketing Richmond to appropriate businesses.
- \*Work with the Town Planner, Planning Board, and Town Council to streamline the process for new businesses to come to Richmond and existing businesses to expand their operations.

- b. QR Code (see discussion for 1b. above)
- c. EDC Website (see discussion for 1b. above)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. Report from Town Planner

-Shaun Lacey was unable to attend our meeting; discussion tabled until the May meeting

- a. Discussion on New Comprehensive Plan
- b. Discussion of new applications to the planning board and update on existing projects

### 2. Discussion of potential for Water Line extension

-DW: was really hoping to have the Planner present to for this discussion

-WM: if we move this to the next meeting it will allow us more time to do additional research

-JR: agreed. It will also provide time to look for grants to help with funding the project

-Water Line extension discussion tabled until future meeting with Town Planner

- a. Section to be considered during Rt. 138 construction (roundabout, etc.)
- b. Section to be considered from water resources lot (near airport) to existing line

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

-WM: what is happening with or could be happening with Charberts Mill? Richmond Commons?

-Brief discussion of projects. EDC will invite Mr. Aiello to a future meeting to discuss Richmond Commons

## **CALL TO ADJOURN at 7:34**

*[MOTION to adjourn by Joe Reddish, second David Woodmansee, ALL AYE]*

*The public is welcome to any open meeting of the Town Council or its committees. If communication assistance [readers/interpreters/captions] is needed or any other accommodations to insure equal participation, please contact the Town Clerks Office at least [3] business days prior to the meeting at [401 539-9000 ext.9](tel:4015399000)*