

**Town of Sharon  
Economic Development Committee  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**EDC Meeting Minutes  
9/27/21**

**EDC Members**

Rob Maidman, Chair	Alan Lury
Jim Berish	Pasqualino Pannone
Eli Hauser <b>absent</b>	Xander Shapiro
Milena Virrankoski	Aleksander Tomic <b>absent</b>

**Other Attendees**

Elizabeth Ellis	Maria De La Fuente
Phillip King – 18 Ashcroft Road	

**Administration**

- Chair Maidman called the EDC meeting to order at 7:00PM via ZOOM.

**Minutes**

- Mr. Pannone moved to accept the minutes of 8/23/21 with minor wording changes and Mr. Berish seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0 unanimously in favor of approval.

**Master Plan**

- Ms. Ellis updated the Committee and said if Route 1 is a go take the temperature that exists with current businesses. See if you can connect train station and Gallery. Create bike ability from train station to Gallery. She is looking into grants.
- Mr. Pannone said that Maria De La Fuente is working on Zoning Bylaws clean up.
- Mr. Berish asked how the survey of existing business is being done. Ms. Ellis said she is speaking with businesses. Mr. Berish said we should encourage owners to attend an EDC meeting.
- Mr. Maidman asked where we are from a permitting point of view to get sewer underway.
- Ms. De la Fuente said to get the sewer done need approval from the highway department. Send letter to sewer commission of Walpole to connect. Talk to MWRA.
- Mr. Maidman commented that it is a lengthy process.
- Ms. De La Fuente said she will put together data on traffic accidents to identify dangerous spots on the road that need to be made safer.
- Ms. De La Fuente said she will look into the possibility of having a bike lane loop around the lake. She would need to work collaboratively with other towns.
- Mr. Pannone said MAPC would have grants for walking and bike paths. Need to determine if there is a viable path.

**Solar**

- Mr. Shapiro said there is no major update on the Energy Advisory Committee. We will have a solar booth at Sharon Day.
- Mr. Pannone said the Master Plan Business Guide will be available at the table with Mr. Shapiro.

### **Letter to Select Board**

- Chair Maidman reviewed a format that he created which could be used as a template for each topic to be discussed in a letter to the Select Board
- Mr. Shapiro asked if it is possible to talk about high, medium and low financial impacts as well as next tax impacts to each suggestion to Select Board.
- Mr. Berish said he will send additional recommendations to Chair Maidman. He said during the tail end of COVID Bio Life Science have taken over 3 more buildings in Boston. It is interesting that lab groups are taking over buildings that are not in Cambridge. Boston is the #1 office market of lease retention during COVID.
- Mr. Pannone said suburbs are getting manufacturing spaces. Boston/Cambridge is getting bio science.
- Mr. Lury said that historically south of 128 has been financial back office areas. It is a cost effective setting. Sharon needs to be looking where we can offer space at price competitive rates. Seek identified groups to be best and highest utilization for limited space on Route 1.
- Chair Maidman said Jim and I will incorporate comments then send out for final comments.

### **Next meeting dates**

- The next scheduled EDC meeting dates include: 10/25, 11/15

### **Adjournment**

- Mr. Pannone moved to close the meeting and Mr. Berish seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous via roll call to conclude at 8:30 PM.