

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
THURSDAY MAY 11, 2023 6:00 pm
WOODBIDGE TOWN HALL – MAIN MEETING ROOM
MEETING MINUTES

draft

Meeting may be view on youtube here: <https://youtube.com/live/Nojir9VjQzl>

Chair Robert Sharrer called meeting to order at 6:07 pm. A quorum was present and acting throughout the meeting.

In attendance: Chair Robert Sharrer, Shawn Flynn, Brian Marazzi, Scott Prud'homme, & Jeremy Rosner. Clio Nicolakis arrived late. 2030 Committee members present were Susan Jacobs & Chris Dickerson.

EDC still has two open positions on the commission to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2023:
Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of March 16, 2023 were unanimously approved.
2. UPDATE ON GIFT CARD PROGRAM “YIFTEE”
No current update. Mr. Flynn is still working on the business list.
3. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Still awaiting on an answer about Betsy’s replacement and their role with EDC.
4. UPDATE FROM 2030 COMMITTEE ON THEIR PLACEMAKING AND CONNECTIVITY WORK
Susan Jacobs from the 2030 Committee summarized the 2030 Committee work, specifically the placemaking/connectivity strategies. She encouraged everyone to look at the Pirie consultant reports and the presentations. The committee was working more aspirationally until they realized how many grants were available to build connectivity in the business district (sidewalks, zoning changes, placemaking changes, especially along Amity Road). Discussion followed. Mr. Sharrer asked if there is anything that EDC can do to help or facilitate the process. Mr. Dickerson emphasized that it is really a multi-commission effort including 2030, EDC, Town Planning & Zoning, Housing, & Conservation Commissions but we can certainly work together, to get in alignment about strategies and help raise awareness. They will defer to Tony Genovese for the grant process. Ms. Jacobs emphasized that it’s a bottom-up approach – using existing businesses, add sidewalks and connectivity that will help and hopefully ultimately grow the business district. There is also some ARPA money for the town to hire a professional planner to move this project forward. Mr. Marazzi asked if the Board of Selectman has been supportive. The Board of Selectman has been very supportive of the 2030 Committee. The business owners have also been very supportive, especially those in the vicinity of the Bradley/Amity Road intersection. Thanks to a business owner/tenant petition, State DOT is already studying this intersection to make improvements. EDC is critical to being a positive ambassador for this program. Everyone is encouraged to watch the presentation if they didn’t already see it.
5. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.