

MINUTES
Town of Andover Economic Development Commission (EDC)
January 13th, 2016
Andover Town Hall

Call to Order:

Elaine Buchardt called the meeting to order at 7:05PM(Jim Dake arrived later)

Present:

Elaine Buchardt, Patrick Dougherty, Jim Dake and Tim Gilmore

Absent: Jeanne Person

Public Speak: none

Minutes: Minutes not available from November. Will be looked at in February meeting.

Liaison Reports:

Tolland County Chamber of Commerce: The TCCC and Manchester Chamber will be having a meeting with legislators in February. Jim will let us know when. (post meeting note: the meeting will be Thursday morning, February 4th 8:00-9:30, 20 Hartford Rd. Manchester)

Planning and Zoning: Zoning has finished up the Plan of Conservation of Development. They will be setting up a town meeting some time in February to present to the town. There is a request for a part time planner for the town that can help with new businesses and grant writing. We need to add this to the upcoming budget.

Specially designed septic systems need to be looked at for any kind of future development.

At some point in the 70's or 80's there was a moratorium on condensed housing on multiple dwellings on one property (condos, apartments, multi-families) to slow down housing development in the town of Andover. They were trying to keep the farming feel of the town and were concerned about what was going to happen to the properties as they were sold. Today, everything involving multiple housing is a variance to the current zoning regulations. The new POCD is forecasting for more condensed housing and mixed use development to combine residential and business use on the same property. With the new POCD in place, Planning and Zoning needs to adjust zoning regulations to accommodate for that.

P&Z has been working with new zoning regulations involving commercial vehicle descriptions since they granted a variance to the landscaping business on Bear Swamp Rd so they can house their vehicles on a residentially zoned property instead of in another town. Now they are getting applications for variances from another landscaping business and a radon business so they also can legally have their trucks on their residentially zoned properties.

Farmers Market News: The Farmers market needs to have the summer market at the town hall this year because the recreational field committee will have the Long Hill ball fields torn up for irrigation and regrading. There was no better option for the market location on short notice. We had to send out the letters to the vendors for 2016 season. So far, Mike and Cathy Palazzi are still acting market masters until we can get a replacement.

Current Business: Elaine gave Tim copies of the web pages she downloaded from the Planning and Zoning web site to be discussed at our next meeting.

New Business

Patrick mentioned that the people who bought a large parcel on Bear Swamp Rd would like to set up farm that promotes ECO Tourism.

We had general discussion of changes we would like to see in town. Tim grew up in Andover and said he would like to see more activities in town that will form a sense of community. We could use a “center of town”. Patrick said the POCD kind of pulls together the library, Center St, the town hall and the school as a town center. It should be interesting to see how they do that. We can brainstorm at another meeting about what activities we could sponsor to foster a sense of community.

Jim mentioned his neighbor, Todd Hunter, is interested in joining the EDC. He will invite him to our next meeting.

Assignments:

Look over the paperwork handed out by Elaine to further discuss how we can create a guide for people in town to work with zoning.

Elaine to do further research on welcome signs for Andover on Route 6.

Next Meeting: Next regular meeting will be Wednesday, February 10th, 2016.

We will discuss new signs, new businesses, community forming ideas and zoning directives.

Adjournment: EDC adjourned at 8:25.
Respectfully submitted by: Elaine Buchardt