

Andover Economic Development Commission

Special Meeting

Date: Thursday September 7th, 2023 10:00AM

Andover Town Hall Community Room

I. Call to Order – 10:05AM Attending Elaine Buchardt, Cathy Palazzi

II. Discuss answers to the POCD survey about EDC concerns

Question 16: Business Retention and business attraction

In progress. We have had business showcases in the past with minor participation. We recently put out a survey to 157 businesses on the assessors list and received 6 responses. This is an ongoing task of the EDC to communicate with current businesses to see what changes they would like and what support we can give them. We constantly updating the business directory as we find out about new businesses and old business changes. We share their Facebook posts on the Andover CT Economic Development page under the heading Andover is Open for Business. We will be working on setting up meetings at current businesses at their worksites. This task will never be complete and is extremely important for the EDC. As our current businesses thrive it will be attractive to new business.

Question 17. Further Streamline development process and consider tax abatement ordinance

Unsure of progress but still relevant. We see this as more a town planning/ economic development position and town administers job but certainly see how it ties into Economic Development.

Question 18. Adopt recommended zoning text amendments in Business and Industrial zones

In progress. We have worked with Planning and Zoning changes needed to allow for mixed use development along the Route 6 corridor based on recommendations from the Regional Route 6 EDC project involving Bolton, Coventry, Andover and Columbia. Changes have been made and more need to be worked on to allow for several types of business and residential use along Route 6.

Question 19. Conduct public hearing and rezone future economic development areas if deemed appropriate

Complete or In Progress – see answer to 18 above for zoning changes that have been made. These changes were based on input from the LADA companies Route 6 development plans that came out to the Regional Route 6 EDC. There were a few public hearings held to discuss the “Village Node” area at the intersection of Route 6 and Long Hill Rd. A lot of positive feedback was gotten from the people attending the hearings so zoning changes were and are being worked on to possibly realize that development in the future.

Question 20. Consider retaining economic development consultant

In progress. We just hired a part time planner/development consultant to assist with the POCD update and planning and development work for the town. We haven’t had one for years and it took years of asking to finally get one.

Question 21. Enter into discussions with owners of most desirable parcels for development

Not Complete but still Important. The LADA plan from the Regional Route 6 EDC did identify areas for development along Route 6. A UCONN Landscaping engineer class created 14 possible areas for development plans in Andover. They used town owned property in most of the plans, but some were privately owned. We need to spend time looking over and discussing these plans to see if they fit in with our vision for development. Once land we would like developed for a particular project is identified, we can contact the owners to see if we can somehow get ahold of the land or have them agree to do develop or sell to developers. This is very important to economic development.

Question 22. Develop brochure highlighting areas for economic development.

Not Complete or even started but still important. Once it has been identified what areas will be good for proposed projects, then we can determine how best to depict the idea on paper to disseminate the information. Maybe done online.

Question 23. Market best and available parcels to commercial brokers

Not complete but still important. Once it has been determined the best use for an area, we can then formulate the right marketing tool to commercial brokers.

Question 24. Promote, expand and enhance Andover Town Center using “Main Street” approach

Not Complete but still Important. There has been a closer look at how to connect different parts of the town as a “center” even though there is no definite geographical center. We have our library and public works down by Route 6 at Long Hill Rd, the old center of town is defunct with the old fire house being turned into a garage for senior transportation vehicles and the town hall, school, fire house and new community center are up on School St. The “Complete Streets” project has been working on connectivity via side walks and bike lanes. It is important that there is visibility of the different parts of town. Maybe through signage, etc. It will all come down to development and marketing.

- III. Site walk for Welcome to Andover sign location at the Center St hop River Trail Parking lot. – We did not do a site walk today, but discussed the area on Route 6 across from the church and near the Center St parking area would be a good spot.

Adjourned at 11:20AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Elaine Buchardt