

Economic Development Subcommittee
October 3, 2018
Minutes

Members present: Thomas Mercer, Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones. Absent Eamon McCarthy Earls

Also in attendance: Town Administrator Jeffrey Nutting, Deputy Town Administrator Jamie Hellen, and Planning Director, Bryan Taberner, Planner Amy Love, Building Commissioner, Gus Brown.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM.

Food Trucks – Mr. Hellen gave an overview of the process for food trucks to be allowed in town. Mr. Hellen explained the licensing process and fees involved. The focus of the food trucks is for community support and only licensed to non-profit organizations. The initiative is to bring more people to the center of town and attract more area business. The food trucks would only, at this time, be allowed at the commons. Mr. Jones asked if there is a restriction of the number of trucks per event. Mr. Hellen said the commons could fit 15 to 20 trucks, but they don't expect that many at the events. Mr. Nutting explained that only allowing it at the commons brings the community to one area of town. Mr. Mercer how asked non-profit is defined in the license. Mr. Hellen said licensing is only for non-profit organizations. Mr. Nutting will provide a draft when available.

Commuter/Business Parking – Mr. Nutting explained the town leases parking in the center of town and charges residents for commuter rail parking. The town has not raised prices in over 20 years for the parking. Mr. Nutting is proposing to increase the price per day, from \$2 to \$3 per day. Mr. Hellen explained the long term planning for leasing the lots in the center the town. Mainly to provide parking for area businesses and train commuters. Mr. Padula asked why not charge \$4? Mr. Nutting said the parking is only for Franklin residents and its service to the town offers for the residents. Mr. Halligan asked if we make any money after we pay the leases for the lots. Mr. Nutting said we lose money. There was discussion on the impacts of cost per spot and the town losing money over the lease for the spots.

Motion to move to town Council, Mr. Jones, second by Mrs. Hamblen, voted (3-0).

Sign By-Law – Mr. Taberner provided an overview of sign by-law changes being proposed. Discussion was had on temporary signs and construction signs. Information was also provided on changes to the free standing signs. The proposed changes would involve Special Permit by the Planning Board for larger signs. Mr. Halligan mentioned why having a limit on the larger signs and allow the Planning Board to determine the size. Mr. Nutting said their need to be limit and some consistency on sizes of the signs. Mrs. Weirling said the sign by-law is currently appropriate and why is the town making changes. Mr. Padula asked if they have a street sign, are they still able to put a sign on the building. Mr. Nutting said they are able to put a street sign and sign on the building.

Mr. Mercer recommended continuing this item to the next meeting for further discussion.

Residential development impact on abutters – Mr. Nutting explained they have been looking into developing or re-writing a screening by-law at the request of a Board member. After many discussions and reviewing the issue, Mr. Nutting recommended re-zoning the 5 lots that this screening has affected. The discussion continued re-zoning back to the original zone. Mr. Padula said by re-zoning back to the original zone, it makes the lots more conforming. Mr. Jones said he thinks logic dictates re-zoning the lot.

Discussion was had to refer this to the Town Council for further discussion on the re-zoning.

Motion to move to town council, Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Hamblen, voted (3-0)

Motion made Mr. Jones, and seconded by Ms. Hamblen to adjourn, (3-0) vote.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 PM

Next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2018 at 5:45PM.