

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

**EDC Meeting Notes
No quorum in attendance
4/26/21**

EDC Members

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

Other Attendees

Elizabeth Ellis	
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Administration

- Chair Maidman called the EDC meeting to order at 7:00PM via ZOOM.
- Chair Maidman commented that Ms. Ellis has spent time gathering information for the Economic Development Committee related to the Master Plan for known initiatives and what might come out. He said he sent out a draft report for all to view and work on. He will provide a business directory update and discuss the committee's efforts over the next 3-6 months. On 5/17 Mr. Ben Bradford will attend our meeting providing insight into the Biotech industry that could help us with development.

Master Plan

- Elizabeth Ellis stated that she compiled the beginning of the Master Plan components related to Economic Development. She did the first cut to slice, dice and sort the information. The economic vitality goals are to enhance and reinforce Post Office Square as a community center. She reviewed Master Plan recommendations and newer term goals and next steps.

Select Board Report

- Chair Maidman reviewed the report of findings and recommendations to the Select Board. The executive summary is all that needs to be addressed within Economic Development. This includes improve ratio of tax – residential vs industry, Route 1 corridor, Heights Plaza, P.O. Square, Sharon Gallery and Shaw's Plaza and conclusions and recommendations.

General Discussion

- For next meeting we need to: help Liz move forward, we need to get the Select Board report firmly underway by the end of summer (target), there are ad hoc guests coming next meeting, What are companies thinking? How will employees be redeployed? Sharon Gallery update needed, there are several friendly 40B type items, let's keep pace.

- Mr. Shapiro asked Ms. Ellis about the momentum on the website. She said that she meets every two weeks with the Town Administrator. Mr. Turkington told her to address Rte. 1 businesses first. How can we help?
- Mr. Pannone said it's a combination of action and study. To get a website up and be effective, speak to the businesses. Small businesses need some guidance.
- Chair Maidman can ask Mr. O'Cain to come discuss sceptics vs sewers. How do we get grants? Is there an innovative alternative method? Work within the challenge. Determine if there are any new technologies?
- Ms. Virrankoski asked Ms. Ellis if there are any green loans or grants. Ms. Ellis said for individual homeowners there are grants for septic systems.

Minutes

- 4/26 minutes deferred due to lack of quorum.

Next meeting dates

- The next scheduled EDC meeting dates include: 5/17, 6/14

Adjournment

- The meeting concluded at 8:25PM.