



**Town of Barnstable
Planning & Development Department
Barnstable Economic Development Task Force
Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2019**

Members Present: Alison Maloney (Chair), Matthew Eddy, Mark Sexton, Chuck Carey, Roy Catignani, Dan Ojala, James H. Crocker, Jr.

Members Absent: Beth Marcus, Jason Siscoe, Terri Ahern, Bob Cody, Andy Clyburn – Assistant Manager of the Town of Barnstable

Staff: Elizabeth Jenkins - Director of Planning and Development, Mike Trovato – Economic Development Specialist
Jennifer Engelsen – Office Manager, Planning and Development Department

Alison called the meeting to order at 12:15PM. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Alison, seconded by Roy. Aye all.

Elizabeth printed out the survey results. There were seven questions and we had thirteen responses. Alison shared that she heard that some folks were afraid of the repercussions if they answered the survey. Elizabeth suggested that the survey be kept open and shared for further outreach.

Relating to some feedback from the survey, Chuck said the problem is not at town hall. There is not one town on the Cape that is doing drastically better than another. Regulations within the state are making it difficult to get things done! Elizabeth shared that members of the BID have had conversations with local boards i.e. changes to bathrooms in restaurants. Elizabeth and Beth are working together to make changes to the tent requirements in town. Roy said he feels that e-permitting is making it harder to do work, cannot do anything electronic in his type of business. Zoning and zoning changes were discussed. Alison said Sandwich took a proactive approach, zoning by right. Elizabeth said it is not easy to make zoning changes; the town has been examining zoning on a case by case basis and doing spot zoning to accommodate. Alison discussed the gateway zone and how she feels that does not help the town in anyway, actually hurts the business community. Roy faced challenges building a medical office in a residential zone (setbacks, etc).

Chuck feels that projects that get through the process are usually “hand held”. There is someone willing to take the time to help the process. Mike told the members that he is able to make inquiries within the town if they are hearing concerns.

Mark shared about a recent visit to Delray Beach, Florida and the changes he saw. There was a sense of vibrancy, diversity of all ages. Main Street in Hyannis needs to draw in that type of attraction so people will want to come to shop, dine, do business, etc. Parking is a concern for many business owners. Mark made an inquiry regarding valet parking on Main Street and is that possible. There needs to be a balance to revitalizing the area and maintaining the character. Elizabeth is in discussion with the Chamber and the BID regarding short-term metered spaces. Employee parking needs to be addressed. The perception that the North Street parking lot is not safe needs to be addressed.

Access to water was discussed. There is no parking at the harbor. Hyannis has one of the best boat launch ramp (Gary Brown ramp) and no parking. This is critical to our residents and tourists. Do we offer water taxis?

A lack of affordable housing was the next topic of discussion. How do we provide more housing? Difficult to justify costs of rents to construction cost.

Elizabeth moved forward with an agenda item to have a discussion regarding marketing and business outreach efforts. A cooperative marketing campaign was developed with the BID and Chamber and local hospitality businesses.

Mike showed a video, Doing Business in Hyannis! The video stresses the quality of life here. Selling point is the resources here. The group felt the video is excellent and needs to get out in the community for all to see. Take advantage of social media. Mike shared that the younger population is looking for more socialization and less drinking, looking for an experience when they are out. A trend is to vacate a traditional office space and work from home. The last mile connection with getting high speed internet in downtown Hyannis is key. There is a misconception that we are only a seasonal community. Larger companies are hesitant that staying in business year round is not obtainable.

Jim thanked the task force members for their service. He feels the group is not getting a full connection to advance the ball. He suggested the members write a note of conclusion and get meetings set up with boards and committees. Jim said this is a new day in town hall, ideas do not die...they are moving!!

Roy wanted to thank Elizabeth for her efforts.

Dan spoke about the Hyannis Water Company and the service development fees they charge for connections, seems to be higher than other towns.

Roy suggested the Town Manager be invited to a meeting. Elizabeth charged the group with making a list of items they want to proceed with to the next meeting.

Public Comment: none

Next Meeting: May 3, 2019 at 12:00 PM

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 1:50 PM was made by Alison.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Engelsen – Planning and Development Department