



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Barney S. Heath
Director
Planning & Development

Commissioners
Phil Plottel, Chair
Sarah Rahman, Vice Chair
Chuck Tanowitz, Secretary

Lisa Adams
Robert Finkel
Jeremy Freid
Jim Griglund
Deborah Jackson
Jack Leader
Marcela Merino
Joyce Plotkin
Matt Segneri
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CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Economic Development Commission

Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 10, 2022

TIME: 6:30 pm via Zoom

1. Attendance

Commissioners Attending: Phil Plottel (Chair); Sarah Rahman (Vice Chair); Chuck Tanowitz (Secretary); Rob Finkel; Jack Leader; Marcela Merino; and Joyce Plotkin.

Commissioners Not Attending: Jeremy Fried; Debora Jackson; Zach Knowlton; and Matt Segneri

Staff Attending: Barney Heath, Director of Planning & Development

Also Attending: Brian Burke; Ken Hoffman, and Florent Mali

2. Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2022

After the motion to approve was made by Mr. Leader and seconded by Ms. Merino, the April 12th minutes were unanimously approved.

3. City Updates

- a. Last Mile Delivery Zoning: Mr. Heath reported that the City Council voted to permit “Microfulfillment Center” use by-right, subject to listed standards, in the manufacturing and limited-manufacturing zones and Mixed Use 1 and 2 zones. The use is also permitted by Special Permit in the Business Use 4 zone. The use would be completely prohibited in the village center BU1 and BU2 zones. Mr. Tanowitz expressed disappointment with the City Council’s decision to include a special permit provision, adding that concerns around microfulfillment centers should focus on the larger issues of transportation and curbside use.
- b. Building Emissions Reduction Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO)/Embodied Carbon: Mr. Heath explained that the Zoning and Planning Committee and full City Council had been briefed on both BERDO and Embodied Carbon zoning proposals. Mr. Plottel indicated that he had discussions with Bill Ferguson about providing an overview of both to the EDC in the coming meetings.
- c. Economic Development Director Search: Mr. Heath shared that the ED Director position has been posted and resumes are being received.
- d. Brewery Update: Mr. Brian Burke gave an update on his plans for the former Local restaurant in West Newton. Mr. Burke is planning to first establish a brew pub at this location and work longer-term to change the zoning to allow him to operate a brewery as well in this location.

4. Discussion Items:

- a. Village Center Proposed Zoning Framework: Mr. Heath presented an update on the proposed Village Center zoning concepts that were discussed at the last Zoning and Planning Committee meeting. The presentation can be found on the Zoning Redesign page on the Planning Department webpage found [here](#)
- b. Working Group Presentation: Mr. Plottel initiated a discussion of the EDC representation on the working groups. Following discussion, the working groups were established as follows:
 - DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Phil Plottel, Marcela Merino (co-chair), Matt Segneri, Debora Jackson (co-chair), and Joyce Plotkin
 - Zoning: Chuck Tanowitz, Jeremy Fried, and Jim Griglun
 - Sustainability: Sarah Rahman, Lisa Adams, and Jack Leader

5. Adjournment: Upon a motion by Mr. Leader and unanimously approved the meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Barney Heath, Director of Planning