

Town of Lunenburg
Economic Development Committee
June 6, 2024

Ritter Memorial Building
960 Massachusetts Ave.
Lunenburg, MA 01462

Present Members: Chair Cathy Clark, Member Jeanne Dupre, Member Ana Lockwood

Absent Members: Member Joeci Gilchrest, Member Maryrae Holman

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting opened at 6:26 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a motion to approve the minutes from July 28, 2022, August 25, 2022, November 10, 2022, August 24, 2023, by Ana Lockwood, seconded by Jeanne Dupre. All in favor.

III. NEW BUSINESS CHALLENGES DISCUSSION

Cathy Clark wants to invite a new business owner, Mike Couture, to an upcoming meeting as there has been frustration and issues with his business opening in Town.

Ana Lockwood suggests having a joint meeting with the Planning Board and the consultant that has temporarily filled the Land Use Director position. Cathy Clark will email Matt Brenner about scheduling a joint meeting.

There was a brief discussion about the last Select Board meeting. Cathy Clark is concerned about the restaurant Reboot owing so much money. The Board of Selectmen were contemplating revoking their license. There was general confusion as to why the Sewer Commission Representative shared all the different payments. Generally, the Committee felt that too much information was shared. Ana Lockwood believes this should be publicized as it is public record, Cathy Clark questions what the protocol is relative to someone owing a large amount. Also, there are questions about whether there was any mediation by the Town or if the Town Manager had made any contact. Cathy Clark wants to know if there is a different way to handle the situation so that there are no other businesses in Town that must shut down. There is a consensus and inquiry into how other towns handle similar circumstances.

There were some brief updates about open business locations and the status of business plans. There has been no further movements or updates about the Summer Street restaurant, Ruby Donuts, or Kabob-e-licious

Cathy Clark questions if there is a better system to find out what business certificates are in Town. Ana Lockwood mentions a platform that the Town of Westford uses as a combined document center. Cathy Clark is interested in utilizing this portion of the platform. Ana Lockwood suggests creating a specific request related to a bylaw and an interpretation to bring to the Planning Board meeting. Cathy Clark is going to review emails to obtain more specific information to be added to a bylaw.

Cathy Clark shares that Cable Access has started an "Open for Business" segment. The filming with Maryrae Holman has already been completed and will be airing soon.

This discussion will continue into the next meeting scheduled for June 27.

IV. MEET AND GREET DISCUSSION

Cathy Clark believes that the LBA should take the lead and the Economic Committee be secondary. Joeci Gilchrist was not present at the meeting so this will be postponed. Currently, there is no tentatively scheduled date.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VI. MEMBER UPDATES/COMMENTS

There were no member updates or comments.

VII. ADJOURN

There was a motion to adjourn by Ana Lockwood, seconded by Jeanne Dupre. All in favor.

The meeting closed at 6:58 PM.