

Economic Development Meeting March 3rd, 2021



Members Present: Robert Panessiti, Chris LaMarco, Nancy Medoff, Kristen Roberts, Dan Silva

Others: Barbara Carboni-Truro Town Planner, Darrin Tangeman-Town Manager, Carole Ridley-Ridley and Associates Consultant

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am.

The minutes for the meeting of January 18th were presented for consideration. A motion was made by Nancy Medoff and seconded by Kristen Roberts to approve the minutes. 4-0 with 1 abstention.

Review of the 5 initial focus groups was provided by Carole Ridley. Attendance was between 3-5 representatives in each of the fields chosen. She felt conversations were candid. The committee was provided with a summary of these meetings. Carole felt that these meetings were productive for information gathering purposes. Here are some key takeaways.

- Nancy expressed concern over misusing the term “rural” and wants to ensure the committee is careful and intentional in how this designation is used. Town Manager Tangeman agreed based upon how the town is truly defined.
- Housing was the number one issue across the board. Businesses universally felt that they cannot fully operate because of the lack of affordable housing. It was the issue discussed more than any other. Walsh Property, build more units, ADUs, town incentives to have second homes rented year round, educating the public on ways in which this housing crisis affects them.
- Youth programs have shrunk considerably over time.
- Businesses that rely upon H2B visas are frustrated by the process.
- Daycare isn’t readily available.
- Getting services (repairs, electric, cleaning, etc) is often challenging.

We discussed the timeline for the report preparation and next steps for the committee now that the initial focus groups have been held.

Chris said we are doing the town a disservice if we don’t focus our entire report on housing. The committee discussed different types of housing (rental vs. owning, low income vs. market)

and whether we should be so granular in our report. The roll of the Truro Housing Authority was discussed. Barbara encouraged committee members attend other meetings to hear what's happening in them, specifically the Walsh Committee and the Housing Authority.

Darrin said that the Cape Cod Commission is conducting a study on Cape wide childcare. Also from a housing perspective there is a new report published based on surveys from new and second homeowners and the impacts of the housing market on the community. Carole recommended that the housing crisis is framed properly so that people understand the ripple effect and just how many repercussions there are . But the actual housing recommendations should come from the Housing Authority.

Kristen Roberts left the meeting at 10:01 am. The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 am.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kristen Roberts

Secretary-EDC

