

# Economic Development Committee

## Meeting September 29, 2022-DRAFT

Members Present: Robert Panessiti, Chair, Nancy Medoff, Vice Chair, Kristen Roberts, Clerk, Dan Silva, Chris Lamarco (joined at 10:15)

Others: Barbara Carboni, Town Planner, Carole Ridley, Principal Ridley and Associates, Darrin Tangeman, Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 10am

The minutes for the meeting May 12, 2022, and September 15 were approved with no amendments.

The Chair remarked that the Committee has spent a lot of time discussing the housing challenges and we should review the data requested at the previous meeting and spend time on the additional components of the report.

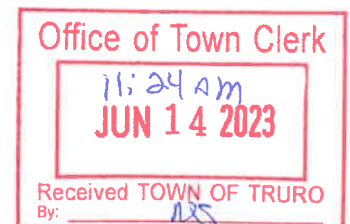
Carole Ridley provided a recap of the previous meeting and an overview of what the content and flow of the EDC report would look like. Content, implementation and roles and responsibilities were discussed. Affordable housing was identified as a major part of the report. The Committee has discussed what actionable recommendations can we make to help move along the housing initiative.

Ms. Medoff expressed a desire to identify the leadership role of other committees such as Walsh Committee, LCPC and Housing Authority as it relates to EDC recommendations.

The various section so the draft report was discussed and reviewed for accuracy and content. Dan Silva expressed his disagreement with recommending any cap on short term rentals. Darrin Tangeman shared alternatives to a cap that other communities have found to be better alternatives.

Nancy Medoff asked if a "resource page" could be created and positioned on the website to direct citizens to the various programs available. She also requested that at the next meeting we spend some time discussing the role of outside organizations and outside marketing to increase business activity. Dan Silva stated he felt housing was the biggest hurdle preventing business from expanding.

Nancy Medoff left the meeting at 11am.



Barbara Carboni shared that one of her goals is to streamline the permitting processes. Dan Silva noted that Barbara's presence has been helpful to local businesses. Kristen Roberts agreed that applications and permitting is cumbersome and needs to be addressed as a short-term goal.

The Chair asked what Committee recommendations around training meant and how that would be implemented. Ms. Ridley responded broadly that it could include everything from software training to grant writing, how to start a business, etc.

Infrastructure and mix use of town property was discussed. Dan Silva raised the issue of access to extending access to water to include the business district, specifically the extension of the town water line. Barbara Carboni indicated that was something the town management was looking into.

Carole Ridley asked the Committee to send comments and make any recommendation to her prior to the next meeting and she will incorporate them. The Chair presented an expected timeline and requesting consideration for comment by the public and other working Committees.

A meeting date of November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am, was agreed, a motion to adjourn by Dan Silva, Second by Kristen Roberts, 4-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35

