

Jaffrey Economic Development Council
Draft Minutes 6/16/21

9:00 am Jaffrey Fire Station

Present: Peter Chamberlain, Chair, Larry Alvarez, Dominique Cassie, James Georgopoulos, Tim Gordon, Ed Merrell, Stephanie Porter, Mike Shea, Jack Belletete

Staff: Jo Anne Carr, Director

1. Consideration of Meeting Time/Schedule

After a short discussion, it was agreed that meeting at 8am was a better alternative for members. Next meeting is August 18, at 8am at the Fire Station.

2. Update on Meeting with DOT re:demo sites

Tobey Reynolds, Project Manager for the DOT Downtown Traffic Project, had a conference call with several members of the EDC, Kevin Chamberlain, Frank Sterling and Jon Frederick. The DOT owns both buildings and is presently relocating the tenants of the River Street apartment. The Lab and Lager is essentially empty. As it stands now, the state would prefer to demo the buildings at the same time, likely spring of 2022. In the meantime, the Town can have access to the building for display of project information and some exhibits/art. It is also possible to use the site after demo for a small kiosk to continue to share information about the project and other town events. Discussion ensued regarding what might be done to the windows - a small group of Larry, Stephanie, Jimmy and Ed volunteered to take on a summer project to access the building.

3. Longer Term: Downtown Advisory Committee

Jo Anne reported that at the Planning Board meeting this month discussion of the Master Plan and priorities for 2021 included working more closely with TEAM Jaffrey and the EDC. In light of the impact of the traffic project on downtown the board supported the Select Board appointing a Downtown Revitalization Committee. EDC members agreed that the boards share concerns especially with regard to the down town traffic project at the 5-way intersection and what impact that might have on existing businesses and future development interests. Jo Anne will draft a request to be presented to the Select Board for approval.

4. Board Membership

There remains an opening for a Stone Arch Bridge Advisory Committee member.

5. Other Business/Updates

- a) Homer Belletete Welcome Center has been moved and is getting a facelift as well.
- b) There was some discussion regarding the new website – and how can it be made more effective for attracting new business. Comments and suggestions are most welcome.
- c) Jack raised the question of funding for runway improvements at the Airpark. There is consensus on the EDC that it is a critical infrastructure for town and we should try to bring available resources to the initiative. Matching funds, Revolving Loan Fund, and other state/federal resources should be investigated.