

Jaffrey Economic Development Council
Draft Minutes 8/18/21

8:00 am Jaffrey Fire Station

Present: Peter Chamberlain, Chair, Dominique Cassie, Cathy Furze, James Georgopoulos, Stephanie Porter, Bill Schofield, Jack Belletete, ExO.

Staff: Jo Anne Carr, Director

Host: David Chamberlain, Jaffrey Fire Chief

Guest: Peter Constant, Café 532 and 1773 Ale House

1. Lab and Lager Site

Discussion on building access and potential uses. It was generally noted that what was posted in July is hard to see and not particularly useful or attractive. Stephanie suggested some decals/pictures. After some discussion, consensus centered on not making a attractive nuisance of the building. Maintain it, i.e. paint and update the front so it doesn't look abandoned. James offered to send a mock up to Jo Anne to share.

2. Downtown Revitalization Committee

The Select Board endorsed the resolution to establish this Committee with an eye toward re/investment in downtown in accordance with downtown plans. It has been noted that the Economic Development Plan hasn't been updated since 2007.

3. Board Membership: Stone Arch Bridge TIFD representative.

Peter Constant has joined this morning to meet the EDC and determine whether he can participate. He provided some background on his business and insights to challenges facing the restaurant industry. Peter started with the Café 532 at the New England Everyday Goods site and moved to a larger building as his business grew. In the past year he has also renovated an adjacent space in the building for a new business the 1773 Ale House, which can provide a bit of separation between the quieter restaurant space from the bar atmosphere with the TV and pool table.

Challenges include a broken food supply chain; travelling distances to pick up food when/where available and importantly is staffing. Staffing issues are partly related to housing affordability and availability, lack of qualified applicants. Opportunities were the ability to provide beer/wine delivery along with food.

Both Belletete's and MDS face the same issues with staffing. Dave Chamberlain suggested that training opportunities may be available through the Applied Technology Centers.

On a motion by Peter Chamberlain and second by Bill Schofield, Peter Constant was recommended to be appointed to the EDC and Stone Arch Bridge District representative for a term of 3 years. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

4. Other Business/Updates

- a) On request of some member of the Planning Board a workshop on the TIFDs was requested. Participants will be Petr Chamberlain, James Georgopoulos, Cathy Furze, Jack Belletete, Laurel McKenzie (PB) and William Taylor (PB). Clarification of the tax impact and accounting was sought.
- b) Jo Anne reported that Harvey Sawyer had met with the Select Board which approved his loan for repaving the runway at the airpark. Jo Anne has delivered the application form to him and is waiting for response.
- c) The Chamber is calling a business meeting for September 22 at the Civic Center from 8 – 930 am.
- d) A question was raised regarding the landscaping at the site where the Homer Belletete Welcome Center was located. The property is owned by the Condominium Association so landscaping would be their responsibility.