

Jaffrey Economic Development Council
Draft Minutes 02/16/22

8:00 am Jaffrey Fire Station

Present: Peter Chamberlain, Chair, Dominique Cassie, Tim Gordon, Ed Merrell, Stephanie Porter, Mike Shea.

Staff: Jon Frederick, Town Manager, Jo Anne Carr, Director

Host: David Chamberlain, Jaffrey Fire Chief

1. Update on the Route 202 Traffic Project Public Informational Meeting

The first public informational meeting was held last night, the 15th at the Fire Station. There were 30 in-person and 28 on-line Zoom attendees. The presentation powerpoint is available on the town website here https://www.townofjaffrey.com/sites/g/files/vyhlf4561/f/uploads/public_information_meeting_presentation.pdf

The construction schedule has been pushed back as follows: Property negotiations through fall of 2022, final design and acquisitions through spring 2023, project advertising summer of 2023 and groundbreaking in 2024 with construction completion by 2026.

Primary concerns were with pedestrian and vehicular flow during construction. In addition to the questions raised at the meeting, EDC members wanted to know how the one-one conversations with downtown businesses and property owners would be conducted. The intent is to directly communicate with those affected on how the construction is impacting them and what actions can be taken to address the concerns.

Another question related to Alderman Park, on the corner in front of Rite Aid, it will be re-located perhaps to the triangle left open near the former Lab and Lager building.

2. Update Marketing/Promotion Initiatives

James and Tim have reviewed the downtown Jaffrey website and offered suggestions – including adding more interactive aspects – such as a weekly blog, news updates etc. The current webhost has boosted the site through a google ad purchase, we'll re-evaluate after a month. TEAM Jaffrey has been managing the site through their contractor.

3. Update downtown business meeting (small group)

Stephanie provided the update on this meeting of downtown property owners and prospective businesses. In attendance were John Peard, Jack Belletete, Kork Little, Carl Querforth and Tory McCagg, Carolyn Edwards, BethAnne Tatro, Judy Mortner and Alyson and Carroll Lefebvre. Several ideas have been pitched, including a market café, new restaurant and larger market. In general property owners are supportive of retrofits/upfits providing the tenants have appropriate experience and a solid business plan. Jo Anne reminded owners of the local property tax relief and State Tax credit program for certain renovated buildings in the downtown area.

4. Other Business/Updates

Jo Anne noted that due to the St Patrick's School no longer being listed for sale and the stall in the EPA response action at WW Cross, we are at a loss for potential brownfields sites for assessments. Chief Chamberlain expressed concern for the school building stability as the utilities have been disconnected.

Member re-appointments are Alvarez, Caissie and Furze.