



# Town of Pepperell

## Economic Development Advisory Committee

1 Main Street, Pepperell, Massachusetts 01463-1644

### Minutes – March 17, 2022 Meeting

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Stephen Themelis, Chair  
Joyce Morrow, Clerk  
Chet Babineau  
Bruce Bonnevier (present for first part of meeting)  
Kelli Ann Kinney  
Chuck Walkovich

#### **Committee Member(s) Absent:**

John Masiello

#### **Additional Attendee(s):**

Ken Hartlage  
Renee D'Argento

Meeting Convened at 6:00 PM. Pledge of Allegiance took place. Meeting was recorded.

#### **1. Minutes of January and February meetings**

Minutes of the January 13, 2022 and February 17, 2022 meetings were accepted and approved after each member responded that he/she viewed the February meeting VoD.

#### **2. Discussion**

Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed the invited guests.

Chair recognized Climate Change Committee members, Ken Hartlage and Renee D'Argento, to present their findings on Municipal Aggregation. Mr. Hartlage gave a brief overview of what municipal aggregation was, how it worked, and the benefits to Pepperell in having this option for purchasing electricity. He explained that multiple options to choose from would be available to Pepperell residents. Amongst the benefits of offering more renewable options, customers would be able to select where renewable energy comes from. We could select renewable energy which comes from New England. This provides more jobs and helps to grow the job market right in our own back yard. The Climate Committee is currently ramping up to submit a request for permission from the Town to

move their research further to come back to the Town with more data and more options to move forward with approving a municipal aggregation program. There is a process required to move this forward. An energy consultant would be contracted to educate Pepperell resident through community outreach, and would be responsible for moving the process forward on behalf of Pepperell. In the interim, the Climate Change Committee will be conducting a Civic Engagement Night event, and will be reaching out the Pepperell Community for input and help in deciding the various options available.

Chair thanked Ken and Renee for meeting with EDAC members and sharing the work by the CCC in researching municipal aggregation and bringing it before the Town in the near future.

Kelli talked about her ongoing work to communicate with Pepperell horse owners, PHOA (Pepperell Horse Owners Association) members and other equine owners to get them more involved in brainstorming events and activities to offer to tourists to bring in more business to the Town. It was suggested that Kelli reach out to 4H leaders, Pepperell Community Fellowship, and the School Committee to make them aware of these discussions, and look for their ideas and willingness to help. Kelli mentioned that the Dog Park is still being discussed.

Chair asked if there were any more items for discussion. There were none. Chair thanked outside attendees for participating in the meeting; and thanked Clerk for keeping things afloat.

Chair then asked for a Motion to Adjourn.

### **3. Adjournment**

Motion was received and approved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

### **4. 2022 EDAC Meeting Schedule**

April 21

May 19

June 16

July 21

August 18

September 15

October 20

November 17

December 15