

Town of Pepperell Economic Development Advisory Committee

1 Main Street, Pepperell, Massachusetts 01463-1644

Minutes – April 20, 2023

Committee Members Present:

Stephen Themelis, Chair

Joan Ladik, Clerk

Lindsay Allard

Tereze Stokes

Absent:

Nicole Murphy

Lynne Archambault

Guests:

Sherrill Rosoff, Agricultural Commission

Jennifer Gingras, Pepperell Town Planner

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Pledge of Allegiance took place. Meeting was recorded.

1. A motion to accept minutes from March 23, 2023 was made by Ms. Ladik, seconded by Ms. Stokes. All in favor.
2. Chair Steve Themelis welcomed Sherrill Rosoff, Agricultural Commission who presented information to the Board about Agri-Tourism and Food Hub status. Ms. Rosoff provided a ranking of the agricultural producing states and Massachusetts was very close to the bottom. She further explained that Massachusetts, specifically Pepperell, was in need of increasing farm production and Eco-Agr-Tourism to boost the economy. She emphasized that Pepperell has rivers and trails that could attract visitors to help further the local businesses.
3. Ms. Gingras updated the committee about the Adopt an Island program status. The Town Planner has created an Economic Development Committee webpage on the Town of Pepperell Planning Department website and a link to ViewPoint Cloud is available to complete an application. Applications will be referred to Chair Steve Themelis, and the Committee to accept, on a first come first served basis. Applicants can complete an account and application and pay for the sign (\$25.00) which will be placed at the location they have chosen. No changes were made to the updated application, but two locations (Clock Tower in RR Square and the Gazebo) were removed as they were already spoken for through the Pepperell Business Association and they are planning to continue working on those locations. Applicants are encouraged to review the Planting Guide that the INPAC Committee has put together to ensure that Native plantings are used. Ms. Ladik contacted Mr. Hansen from the Fitz Collaborative and he approved a location on that property for planting. Ms. Hansen, from the Recreation Commission noted that no one has been taking care of the garden in front of the building so it is available to new

gardeners. Ms. Gingras spoke with Ms. Ezzio, Pepperell Family Pharmacy and she is interested in applying for a location.

The discussion moved to how businesses would be notified of these locations and the program. Ms. Stokes offered to walk around town to distribute a flyer announcing the Adopt an Island Program. She also noted that we should create an announcement so a PSA can be posted. Ms. Allard offered to create a flyer to be distributed.

At the last meeting it was discussed that the committee would hold a meeting for all businesses in town to introduce the program, and talk about the Wayfinding option. Ms. Gingras spoke with the owners of the Barn Door and they are willing to host this meeting at their location on May 16 at 2-3pm. Ms. Ladik will create a business certificate list including emails so an electronic announcement can be sent out prior to the meeting. Ms. Ladik will send an email to the President of the Business Association about the Meeting so a blub in their weekly newsletter can be added.

4. Next meeting date:

May 18, 2023

Chair Steve Themelis called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Ms. Ladik, seconded by Ms. Allard to adjourn at 7:05PM. All in favor.