

**South Hadley Redevelopment Authority
Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2020
South Hadley Town Hall, Room 205**

In attendance:

Frank DeToma, member; Diane LaRoche, member; Imad Zubi, member; Tony Judge, member; Anne Capra, Conservation Administrator/Planner;

Frank DeToma called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

1. Discuss and Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes from 12/19/19 Meetings

Frank DeToma asked if anyone had any edits on the minutes. Hearing none, Tony Judge made a motion to approve the minutes from 12/19/19; Diane LaRoche seconded; all in favor.

2. Other New Business

Frank requested that we add an “Announcements” section to all of our meeting agendas. Others agreed that would be a good way to share information. Frank noted that Luis Builders received a Special Permit for 36 Bridge Street. Members discussed the details of the project as presented in their plans. Frank noted he spoke in favor of the project at the meeting.

Tony inquired about the status of the building at 1 W Main Street, on the corner of Carew Street. Frank asked if the Town conducted inspections for safety on buildings that are condemned, mothballed, or simply blighted. Anne said she would look into that. Frank asked about the Mill 6 building on Gaylord Street and what is the current status of ownership. Anne said she would look into that.

Frank stated that he wanted to develop some sort of tracking method for monthly activities and for prioritization of tasks. He will work on a draft to share with the committee.

3. Report on Outreach to Redevelopment Authorities

Frank and Tony visited with the staff of the Gardner and Fitchburg Redevelopment Authorities. Frank contacted former consultant Cathy McCabe who advised that he contact the Authorities in Gardner, Fitchburg and Greenfield. The Gardner and Fitchburg Redevelopment Authorities works with their City’s Office of Planning and Community Development on economic development efforts. Both own several properties that they operate and generate revenue from which they use to capitalize new projects. They have also utilized the sale of tax title properties to generate revenue.

4. Outreach to Potential Developers

Members discussed properties prioritized in the URRP and contacting the property owners to better understand their current business plans and intended future use of their sites. The Western Mass Economic Development Partners will be hosting a Western Mass Developers Conference on May 13th at MGM in Springfield. Anne recommended the Redevelopment

Authority register for a table and utilize this event for networking. Members agreed, and Anne will set up registration. Anne will begin drafting some property profile sheets for the priority parcels and areas identified in the URRP that could be used for outreach materials at the conference and in other venues. Anne will seek price quotes for business cards for the members.

Members agreed that they would like to meet on a monthly basis. With Win Lavallee's resignation, there is an open seat on the board. Membership is by vote at Town Meeting so we need to identify a candidate soon so that they can be on the Town Meeting warrant for May.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.