

Town of Deep River Economic Development Commission

Date: October 19, 2020

Time: 7 PM

Location: Town Hall & Zoom Platform

Call to order: Lewis called this meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members in Attendance: Larsen, Mackenzie, Nucci, Sbrolla, McDonald, Lewis.

Audience: Mark Reyher, Alan Paradis (P&Z member)

Motion To accept minutes from September 21, 2020:

Upon Motion by Sbrolla, seconded by MacKenzie and carried unanimously, the minutes from the September 21st meeting were accepted as presented.

Item of Discussion / Action:

Blighted properties:

There was a discussion regarding blighted properties. Lewis stated that he has observed several properties that were in question are now under remediation. Lewis noted that these two properties appear to have been structurally unsound and may have been condemned. Lewis stated this topic was discussed by EDC years ago. The consensus at the time was that blight is subjective, and that in Deep Rivers instances, the circumstances may not rise to the same level as other municipalities that have had at best, mediocre success in enforcing their blight ordinances. Moreover, there has been at least one instance (New Britain) where the ordinance was deemed unconstitutional. It was agreed that P&Z, as well as the Deep River Department of Public Safety working with blighted property owners may be the most viable option to alleviate blight.

Town Landing Update.

Nucci inquiring about status. Lewis stated the Riverboat and Rail Pump Cars have been running utilizing VRR property for parking. MacDonald added that the VRR is going to participate in the extension of the sidewalk to the Town Dock from River Lane. Post-COVID activities could be robust in this underutilized area.

Deep River “Good News”:

Lewis admitted to dropping the ball, and will find a writer to submit articles to news media.

P&Z, EDC Joint meeting:

Larsen and Sbrolla to represent EDC.

Vacant Retail Properties:

Sbrolla to contact vacant storefront owners in an effort to assess their needs, if any, in the promotion of their properties.

Adjournment:

Upon Motion by Nucci, seconded by Sbrolla then carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned @ 8:00 P.M.

Peter Lewis
Acting Secretary