

Town of Deep River Economic Development Commission (DREDC/EDC)
March 18, 2024 • Monthly Meeting Minutes

Call to order: Allison Sloane (Chair), called the meeting to order @ 7:01 p.m.

Members in attendance: Carol Hanover (Co-chair), Leigh Balducci (Secretary), Allison Sloane, Stacy DeNilo

Absent: Renee Lamark Muir, Ted Mackenzie, Frank Santoro

Acceptance of Minutes: Motion to accept minutes from the February 2024 meeting: Motion by Carol Hanover and seconded by Leigh Balducci. The minutes from the February 2024 meeting were accepted as presented.

Audience of Citizens: Tony Bolduc (P&Z), Alan Paradis (P&Z), Carol Jones (Selectman), James Howard, Joe Schwitzer

Old Business:

Let the minutes reflect that this commission discussed the incubator building property suggesting that the Selectmen consider the Industrial Park property report created by Katherine Russell. Further consideration to be given as to whether Deep River be in the incubator business moving forward. Tony Bolduc asked if the maintenance and costs would be the responsibility of the town and what would the price be for the property if sold? According to Carol Hanover, the EDC does not have enough information/facts to answer these questions now. Carol Jones reported that the town had not yet had the time to reach out to a real estate person for pricing. Allison Sloane suggested the EDC table this discussion until the April 2024 meeting.

Topics in review: River Walk tabled due to Ted Mackenzie absence; St. John's property-suggested a liaison be put in place to work with the liquidator to reach out to St. John's. Try to work out a way for St. John's to become part of the tax base for Deep River.

New Business:

Discussion of possible website for EDC and to revamp the existing website for the town. Tina Accetta, Carol Jones' assistant, maintains the town's Facebook profile. Waiting on a proposal from John Steward for an EDC website. Allison Sloane also has a volunteer to maintain an EDC site.

Motion made by Allison Sloane to petition the Selectmen for three alternate spots on the EDC. Carol Hanover in favor, Leigh Balducci seconded, All in favor. Allison Sloane will write the petition.

Joe Schwitzer wished to move into the incubator building with a 40-truck business but ran into obstacles. James Howard noted excessive trash from the business Schwitzer already owns there. Schwitzer offered to take care of the trash daily. Allison Sloane offered to investigate what the holdup might be for Schwitzer.

Other commercial properties for sale in Deep River were discussed and possible businesses to occupy them was discussed.

Discussion of possible improvements/embellishments for Deep River. Ex. Pole Banners, Farmer's Market, Horseshoe Pitcher, Installation of Public Art, Creating a blight ordinance, Ways to improve Zoning Enforcement

Discussion to work with Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD) on a study of long- and short-term goals for Deep River. Tony Bolduc said P&Z is already working with a company and EDC should submit their goals for consideration.

Motion made by Allison Sloane, seconded by Carol Hanover to bring the Blight Ordinance up at the April meeting and to have it discussed with the Selectmen.

Discussion of Industrial Park: Who owns what? How much is paid? EDC has the information and will speak with the Selectmen

Concerns over both Devitt Field and Plattwood Park playground equipment. New sets coming for both.

Adjournment: Motion by Allison Sloane to adjourn. Seconded by Leigh Balducci. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Balducci