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Belmont Business Study Committee MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018, 7:00 PM
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall

Committee Members Present:

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| ☒ Artur Nergaryan, Art's Specialties, Chair | ☒ Emma Thurston, Damnation Alley
Distillery |
| ☒ Wendy Etkind, Resident, Vice Chair | |
| ☒ Kathleen Crowley, Belmont Books | ☒ Katherine Venzke, Helena's |
| ☒ Suzanne Schalow, Craft Beer Cellar | ☒ Jeffrey Wheeler, Senior Planner |

Staff Support Present:

- ☐ Raul Gonzalez, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)
- ☒ Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator
- ☐ Spencer Gober, Staff Planner

7:00 PM Meeting called to order.

1. Vision 21 Implementation Committee Overlap Discussion:

P. Garvin explained the Vision 21 Committee, What is it? P. Garvin suggested the committee meet with Vision 21 at their next meeting.

2. MAPC Grant

P. Garvin discussed the grant received from the MAPC and that questions were sent from R. Gonzalez of the MAPC, to answer to begin the process.

- What are your goals regarding this project? What would you like to see accomplished within the time period?
- What are the needs this project should address?
- Who are some of the key stakeholders we should work with?
- Who from the committee /town do you think will be involved in the process?
- What do you like about Arlington, Bedford, Lexington, Winchester, and Melrose compared to Belmont? What don't you like?

The Group briefly ran through and discussed the questions

1. Contact person, department, how to open a business (6 months)
 - a. Communication
 - b. Business Districts- Cushing, Waverley, Carter
2. Commercial Network among districts (Hillside Crossing)
 - a. Districts – Central Partfry, Square, Lower East Belmont; Dunk Pleasant, S. Pleasant, Belmont
3. Failing Business Assistance

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4. Networking Districts
5. Website and Process/Marketing
6. Stakeholders in the community the committee would like for him to speak to when gathering information
 - a. Head department in town – place concerns
 - b. Landlords – these own more involved
 - c. Realtors
 - d. Board of Selectmen
7. Comparable Towns and the positives and negatives about each one. S. Schalow stated Winchester was easy to have a business open, and that Winchester has a Point of contact. It was stated that Maynard has a buddy system in place for businesses instead of the businesses having to remember to reach out to the Town.

A. Nergaryan suggested that someone could be appointed to help reach out to landlords. There are also some immigrant barriers in Town.

P. Garvin explained to the committee the form of government in Town and that there are Elected Boards that run Departments. The Town the committee was mentioning were all Town Manager forms of government.

8. Why Chose Belmont?
 - o The Discussion was focused around why Belmont was chosen for their business. The committee felt Belmont was an awesome Town and there was a lot of support from the Town one on one.

Adjourn at 8:10 PM. Next Meeting will be on October 23, 2018.

Submitted by Patrice Garvin