

**North Yarmouth Economic Development and Sustainability Committee (EDSC)**

**March 25, 2015, 6:30pm**

**Memorial School Room 12**

Attendees: K. Murphy (Sub-chair), A. Horstman, M. Ahlberg, S. Lee, A. Graham, P. Gilligan, S. Hopkins, S. Morrison, C. Ellison (Secretary)

Absent: A. Lones (Chairperson), P. Napolitano

1. Minutes from February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and approved.
2. Pre-emptive of discussing the actual town meetings that have occurred over the last month we began discussing individual questions of ours mostly directed at Steve as planning board liaison. We asked about the process for changing zoning and creating ordinances for new construction such as sign ordinances and style requirements. Most of the committee members had attended or viewed the presentations and hearings. Residents who had lived in NY longer, like Annie and Steve confirmed that the 'vocal minority' who were heard first at the 3/18 hearing tend to take this stance at all meetings. The 3/24 meeting had more in favor than the previous meeting. Those of us new to the town were fairly surprised by the negative tone we had seen at the 3/18 meeting.

It was asked is sewer necessary to the idea of development, as it stands now the septic requirements will not allow for adequate density for any sort of commercial development or multi-family housing. The Memorial School location itself does have capacity in the septic for some further development. Steve was very helpful in explaining the scalable sewer that would be built as more development was proposed. We all agreed that the sewer is necessary for the possibility of development, and without it no one will be willing to develop.

We then circled back to renovation possibilities at the school, and the idea that many people may be averse to using the school because they can't see what it could be they only see what it is. We want to make sure that green space for children remains, even if the current field is destined for development, we can ensure that a replacement is offered as a condition for development. We prefer a mixed generational town not just elderly housing in one place. We brainstormed about what would be possible in the town that creates all the things we hope our town would be including community gardens, markets and public multi-generational open spaces. We must decide if, as a committee, it is our duty to champion this proposal prior to a vote.

3. We discussed the goals as presented and considered adding a goal to increase tax base (without raising taxes). Below are the first volunteers for subcommittees based on the goals, which should be further discussed and organized at the next meeting.

Product – Susanne; Marketing – Carol, Patrick; Financial – Carol (grants); Operational – Amy. It was suggested that Audrey might be interested in the Organizational goal.

4. The branding initiative for the North Yarmouth Economic Development Process was briefly discussed, which would be more of an economic branding initiative not a broad spectrum replacement of the tree.
5. The question of TIFFs was again brought up, and we would like to know if the EDSC committee is responsible for designating TIFFs. If we are we need to learn more about what other towns do, what is possible in NY and how we go about doing it. Other towns would likely share their information, and perhaps someone could come speak to us about the process.
6. It was suggested that if we decide we are responsible for promoting the plan and that the vote will go to referendum, we should organize some sort of event where we can present information informally, answer questions and explore the community's ideas.
7. The next meeting will be on April 15<sup>th</sup> in the Town Office Meeting Room.