

Economic Development Task Force
Minutes of
October 15, 2013

Attendees: Caroline Paras (GPCOG), Danielle Loring, Laurie Forbes, Rolf Olsen, Elissa Gifford, Sharon Dodson and Teresa Sadak (Mike McClellan and Bob Harmon were absent)

Meeting started at 7:00 p.m.

1. Introduction:

Caroline Paras opened the meeting. She introduced herself and had everyone introduce themselves and give a little background about themselves.

Caroline mentioned that Raymond has lost 400 jobs.

2. Positions:

Chair – Motion for Rolf Olsen to be chair by Teresa Sadak and seconded by Laurie Forbes. Passed.

Vice Chair – Motion for Elissa Gifford to be Vice Chair by Rolf Olsen and seconded by Teresa Sadak. Passed.

Secretary – Motion for Teresa Sadak to be Recording Secretary by Laurie Forbes and seconded by Sharon Dodson. Passed.

3. Planning Initiatives and Projects:

Danielle Loring had given each board member a packet with various materials in it. She talked about what the Planning Board was currently reviewing. They are working on parking standards. Standards are not working for new buildings. Most other buildings are grandfathered.

Website – Lauries Forbes updating business on town website

- Services offered to be added
- Market as a community

Questionnaire – a Questionnaire for businesses was included in the packets for the Task Force members to review and give suggestions. These questionnaires will be sent to businesses (by mail or hand delivered) and develop on how business friendly Raymond is. Some of what it covers is ordinances, value and assets.

Zoning – Commercial Development can develop not just inside commercial district. Not sure if people are aware of this.

Homework – Each Task Force member is to review the questionnaire and give feedback and return it to Danielle Loring so she can make changes and get questionnaires out. Board is to return changes by 10/18/13; Danielle will mail questionnaires out by 10/25/13; and we are asking for responses back by 11/8/13. The questionnaires will go out by mail, be given out face to face and on web with surveys.

Elissa Gifford asked how is public finding out about meeting/committee? Danielle is talking with a lot of the people face to face. Danielle talks to a lot of the developers. Danielle feels they need to feel comfortable with her.

We need to look at trends to address the needs of developers.

Rolf Olsen mentioned that we need to look at businesses that did not move into Raymond and ask why they didn't move here. What turned them away?

Teresa mentioned we need to look at what we don't have instead of bringing in what we already have.

Rolf asked what else is Planning Board looking at? Danielle said Amending Zoneland ordinance for boat launch, amend escrow criteria, parking standards, and administrative in nature.

Rolf stated that we are not looking at doing changes of ordinances. We are looking at what possible changes should/could be made to help bring in businesses.

Sharon Dodson asked What if people don't like specific ordinance? Rolf then added Why don't they like it? Are we having things bumping against each other to stop people from coming into Raymond?

Task Force was set up for a particular reason:

- Short term
- Get job done

Caroline Paras stated there are over 130 businesses. Which businesses do you do face to face and which do you have to online? This job should be manageable in 6 months.

Elissa Gifford – online would allow anonymity

Danielle – How many business should be asked? Should we just do businesses and/or developers? She will talk to Commercial developers to get feedback.

Rolf Olsen – We are looking for trends. We should get a 10% return on surveys. We need to hear about problems. Where are complaints coming from - commercial or residential?

Immediate Task: Board to look at Questionnaire and ask questions so Danielle can go talk to people. Timing issue is a problem. We have a March 15 deadline.

Task Force will gather results and analyze the results.

Elissa asked how we can reach entrepreneurs? Caroline responded pretty much by word of mouth and census,

Rolf asked if we have a chart on people that work with Economic Development? Danielle is working on it. We need to know where things stand now.

Rolf will hookup with Danielle to come up with best way to distribute information.

4. Next Meeting: November 13th at 6:30 p.m. at Broadcast Studio.

5. Motion to Adjourn 7:55 p.m.

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