

DRAFT
Economic Development Task Force
Minutes of
November 13, 2013

Attendees: Danielle Loring, Laurie Forbes, Rolf Olsen, Elissa Gifford, Sharon Dodson and Teresa Sadak

Meeting started at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. Motion by Sharon Dodson and seconded by Laurie Forbes to approve the minutes of October 15 (with corrections). Motion passed.

Bob Harmon has withdrawn from the EDTF due to conflicts of time.

Update from Danielle Loring.

- Survey went out to 45-55 people.
- The survey was also on Survey Monkey.
- Postcards were sent out to 45-55 people.
- 60% plan on expanding.
- 87% keeping business in Raymond
- Received 15 responses which is 30% of the group sent out
- Quality of life was a big factor on the survey
- They could choose multiple factors on survey
- Common themes were Parking issues and costs were prohibited.
- Danielle talked to Planner about possible changes to ease process.
- Issues why they don't come to Raymond are Planning Board, Need Consistency and Infrastructure (sewer and water)
- Businesses to do trivia night which helps networking and supporting local businesses

Updating website for transparency to help people who want to have businesses here.

Rolf – Why do people want to leave Raymond? Response: Landlord issues and parking not big enough.

Rolf – We need to know why they don't want to stay or why they won't build here? Red tape? Cost? Planning board?? What can we do to entice them to come here?

Danielle to find out why (recent people) they made decision they did and not come to Raymond.

Sharon – requesting that Danielle ask about big companies, not smaller ones, to see why they won't come here.

Laurie – Were you able to address issues to planner.

Danielle – Site plan was open to amending ordinances to help.

Sharon – Would like wording to look over.

Danielle handed out Flow chart as to the process of someone wanting a permit (commercial building). The chart is broken down as to where they need to go according to what they need. There are many steps.

Rolfe – Would be good idea to have a checklist for people.

Danielle – She and Chris are working on that (using one that Portland uses but making it suitable for Raymond).

Business owner is responsible for making sure they do all that is required of them.

Laurie – What do people think?

Danielle – People are surprised how long it takes...waiting. People are generally happy with the office.

If a business is getting a liquor license, it needs to go to Selectboard first before the planning board.

Peddlers' license – large events also need to go to Selectboard first.

Laurie – What do people mean when they want to expand (hopefully some day)?

Danielle explained what is Certification Program. Application for Raymond to be accepted as “Business Friendly Community”. This helps show we are a good place to have your business. Need to fill our application and do work on it.

Rolf – Comp Plan would need to make some changes. Need to get a lot of work done before we can apply for Certification Program in order to meet requirements.

Maybe it would be good to go through some other applications/talk to another town who submitted application to get some of the answers.

Goals and Objective.

- Have report done on schedule
- Get survey stuff wrapped up before next meeting
- Danielle said by end of next week
- Danielle will send to Committee
- Talk to Caroline and get data from people that did not come to Raymond and why
- Danielle will talk to developers and real estate people to see if they know anyone that looked here but didn't start business in Raymond.
- Committee members can ask businesses their opinions

Calendar.

Can we set out a few dates for meetings for possible speakers?

MMA is having a workshop on 12/10 – Managing Private Sectors. Danielle will be attending and will report back to the committee.

Rolf will send homework by email.

Next meeting, Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.