

WEDC MEETING MINUTES

WEDC meeting came to order on January 17, 2018 at 6:32PM Present were Stan & Sande Holz, Rick Wright, Peter Corey, Bob Stiles. Bob & Sally Maroon, Scott Burns, Everett Kennedy, Roxie Severance, Katy Kopp, Steve Laroza, Gerry & Cory Pons.

Last month's minutes were accepted.

Parking and Railroad Property Discussion

- Discussion reviewed Jerard Cape's sketches and ideas on how to increase parking and best uses for land owned by the railroad. Uses included picnic area, playground, dog- park, and terrain park for kids. Also mentioned was working with the railroad to provide a historic perspective on structures contained on the rail property. Other suggestions included a Town Community Building/Town Recreation Building.
- In order to continue the process, a motion was made and approved to allow Gerry Pons and Bob Stiles to research properties, contact railroad officials to investigate what the railroad will allow or not.

Warrant Article for Town Manager

- A vibrant discussion was held regarding the issue of drafting a warrant article for Town vote to hire a Town Manager.
- Issues discussed included whether WEDC should write and support the warrant article, the pros and cons of a Town Manager and the Town Manager versus a Town Administrator. It was decided to form a Warrant Article Committee to write an information sheet outlining the positives and negatives of a Town Manager position. A petition for a Warrant Article would then be written and submitted by February 6th. It was generally felt that WEDC would be neutral in writing the petition and not listed as a sponsor.
- Depending on the information sheet and Board comments at our February meeting WEDC may lend it's support to the petition.

Timbering of Industrial Park Property

- Discussion was had concerning why the property should be timbered, how timbering would enhance the value of the property and bring some additional revenue to the Town.
- The question of how to select a forester to manage the project and to share with the Town Select Board for their review and approval. Further discussion was deferred to the next meeting. Gerry will work on providing proposal steps.

General Discussion

- Was held on downtown properties including the Brown Street Furniture site.
- The discussion centered on – should the properties be acquired and what is the best use of those properties? This discussion will continue.

The next meeting is February 21, 2018 @ 6:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cory Pons/ Secretary