

Salem Town Vision Survey Committee

Minutes for Meeting of March 25, 2009

Present: Frank Abetti, Richard Asafaylo, Carole Eckart, Janet Griggs, Sam Rindell, Tom Woronik. Len Giambra arrived 7:45.

Absent: Cheryle Cassidy, Shirley Diamond, Diane Weston.

Visitors: None.

Janet Griggs called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

There were no public comments.

Agenda was discussed. There were no additions to the Agenda.

Minutes of 3/11/09 meeting were discussed. There were no changes.

Minutes M/S/A Tom Woronik/Sam Rindell

Dick Asofaylo shared answers to two outstanding questions from previous meetings: 1. Affordable housing definition; and 2. How to petition for municipal office.

Carole Eckart handed out her summary of the group's input so far, consisting of 'paragraphs' she had written for each topic, and asked for feedback/comments by the next meeting. The group then continued the activity of the past few meetings, which was to compose model Vision paragraphs and associated questions to ask the town groups.

7:54 - 8:12. The group first tackled "Natural Resources," and re-iterated elements that should be included under this topic, such as aquifers, farmland, forest blocks, wild-life corridors, etc.

8:12 - 8:55. The group next discussed "Business," and discussed types of businesses the town might wish to attract. Criteria discussed included low impact on the town, fit with the town character... and contribution to tax revenue. It was stated that revenue from business was 6%, and an appropriate goal might be closer to 15% to alleviate the tax burden. It was also noted that it would be important to know whether the town wanted any business development at all. The group expressed an interest in knowing what the tax revenue would be from a large "box" store versus smaller businesses. The group also discussed infrastructure (e.g. sewer system, water) which might be required to attract significant business development. The group asked F. Abetti to reach out to D. Abetti to help the group understand the EDC philosophy and to help frame questions we might wish to ask the town groups/organizations.

8:55 - 9:09. The group next addressed "Regionalism," and concluded that regionalism should be pursued only if there were an advantage to all parties. It was also suggested that before the town pursued a potentially costly solution to a need, we should always ask if a regional solution were possible and appropriate.

The final topic, "Finance," was deferred as it was after 9:00.

M/S/A Cheryle Cassidy/Tom Woronik to adjourn at 9:10 PM.