



## TOWN OF BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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### *Minutes* *Economic Development Committee* *August 15, 2017*

Attendees included Steve Russo, Ron Pelletier, Eddie Arnold, Gerrell Smith, Tad Putney and resident Denise Morrisette.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the July 25th meeting were approved with one minor edit.

#### **HB 316**

Attendees discussed recently passed HB 316, which allows a town (via town meeting vote) to provide a property tax exemption for businesses that build, rebuild, modernize or enlarge within a community. The exemption applies to the municipal and local school property tax portions of property taxes. The town sets the percentage of the increased assessed value attributable to the construction/addition/renovation (up to 50%) that is exempt. The exemption may run for a maximum of 10 years and the set percentage and duration must be uniformly applied to all projects within the municipality. The adoption of the exemption is good for a maximum period of 5 years. There was discussion that members would like to confirm that the exemption is not limited to new construction, but also applies to “additions”. It was noted in the bill that “additions” are covered by the new law. Eddie suggested checking in with other towns later in the fall to see which ones are considering adopting it in March and what percentage they are proposing and for how many years. Knowing this information on other towns would be helpful should we wish to pursue it as well. It was suggested that the bill be shared with the finance committee for their input on whether they would support it. Tad will forward to the finance committee.

#### **Business Owner Survey**

Attendees reviewed the 2012 survey that was sent to business owners to determine what edits to make for the survey to be sent out in advance of the April 2018 session with business owners. It was agreed that the first page should be substantially simplified. Attendees reviewed the balance of the survey and agreed on other suggested changes, which can be reviewed at the next meeting.

#### **Welcome Signs**

Attendees agreed that the signs should be on two posts and angled toward the street, which means nothing on the back of the signs. Ron said he would pursue a design of

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the signs. Tad provided Ron with sketches that the EDC had discussed for the signs. Gerrell suggested reviewing a design with the Historical Society. There was discussion of adding a picture of the train depot to the sign; permission of the owners would be needed. Ron said he would look for an old picture of the depot.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, September 19th.

Minutes submitted by Tad Putney.