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TOWN CLERK  
NORTH READING, MA

**North Reading Economic Development Committee**

**Minutes of 1/5/21**

**Virtual meeting: +1 301 715 8592 US, meeting ID: 985 430 0926 or by computer/video at:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9854300926>**

Attendees: Peter Beal, Vice Chair; David O'Neil; Pat Lee; Christopher Hayden; David Ferreira  
Staff: Chris Deming, DPW Director; Michael Gilleberto, Town Administrator; Danielle McKnight, Town Planner  
Others: Liane Gonzalez, Select Board liaison; Richard Wallner, Select Board; Lisa Egan, Executive Director, Reading-North Reading Chamber of Commerce

**Minutes of 11-17-20:** not yet ready, tabled until next meeting.

**Organization of officers:** tabled until next meeting.

**Discussion: Chamber of Commerce (Lisa Egan)**

Lisa Egan, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, joined the EDC to ask for ideas for how the Chamber could better support North Reading businesses. Some ideas were offered such as online shopping/coupon events, small business shopping weekends to encourage shopping closer to home, asking the Transcript for a "chamber corner" to highlight a new business on a regular basis, Norcam interviews with the Chamber to advertise shopping local, and, as a longer-term project, pursuing making Main Street a business improvement district. The group agreed to continue thinking over ideas and discuss them again at the next meeting.

**Wastewater update/discussion:**

Mr. Deming and Mr. Gilleberto gave a presentation on the status of sewer (presentation attached).

Mr. Wallner mentioned that FMX had done a study about a decade ago to determine how much tax revenue could be generated by the installation of sewer. He felt it was not much revenue for the cost. Mr. Hayden said that was true if we look only at Concord St., but there was much more potential when we look at Main St. too.

Mr. O'Neil stated that in these plans, Martins Pond should be included, since many of these homeowners rely on tight tanks due to the small size of their properties.

Mr. Lee said this was voted down several years ago due to neighborhood opposition.

Mr. Hayden said the pipes would be designed to handle the flow even to Martins Pond, so it could be a future possibility.

Mr. Wallner said the intent was to make the gains from the economic development made possible by sewerage the commercial areas first, and then with the increased revenue, we could be in a better position to fund extending sewer to Martins Pond.

Ms. Gonzalez concurred, saying the focus was on seeing some economic benefit first.

**Old/New Business:**

Ms. McKnight gave an update on state loan programs, saying the MGCC has recently opened sector-specific programs focusing on personal services, indoor recreation and performance, etc. This has gone out on Town News and is being posted by the Chamber.

**Adjournment at 7:30 PM**

Respectfully submitted,  
Danielle McKnight, Town Planner

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