



## Town of Ashland, Office of Economic Development

Economic Development Advisory Group  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Attendance: Garrett Quinn, Pam Bathen, Alan Macintosh, Dennis Ahern, Beth Reynolds

Absent: Julia Chase

Audience: Michael Herbert, Mark Dassoni

Opened meeting at 1:35pm

1. B. Reynolds welcomed group and attendees. Asked permission of the group to go out of order on agenda to hear an update from the Town Manager, Michael Herbert regarding the potential Comprehensive Plan being discussed by the Planning Board and Select Board. After a brief overview from M. Herbert about the next steps he asked the group if they would like to have a voice in the process. P. Bathen said that most people should have a voice, that more voices are critical to this plan. A. Macintosh stated that the Town Manager and the Select Board should also be an active participant. The group unanimously agreed that the Town Manager, Select Board and Economic Development Advisory Group should be involved with the process and would like representation from the Advisory Group to be via Beth Reynolds.
2. Business Incentive Program Review of Applications
  - a. Sentie Kironde, owner of Sentie's Kitchen located at 12 Pond Street, has applied for the interest free loan program. He has been approved for a loan of \$200,000 with Needham Bank. This loan is being used for his investment to build a new restaurant. The incentive program allows for up to \$10,000 of interest over a 2 year period with the Town paying 60% and Needham Bank contributing 40%. The applicant is not to receive more than \$6,000.00 in fees from the town per the program guidelines. The applicant met all requirements listed in the rules and regulations set forth by the Select Board. A. Macintosh made a motion to accept the application for the applicant to receive interest free financing with the town contribution not exceeding \$6,000.00 over the course of 2 years. P. Bathen seconded. Vote was unanimous to move forward and recommend the grant to the Select Board.
  - b. Sara Moussaid, owner of MSM Blow Dry Bar has applied for the sign and façade improvement grant. She has requested \$973.00 in reimbursement for a new sign and awning at the entrance at 159 Main Street. This amount is half of the total cost estimate. The applicant met all requirements listed in the rules and



regulations set forth by the Select Board. D. Ahern made a motion to recommend that the applicant receives reimbursement in the amount of **\$973.00**. A. Macintosh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Reviewed Minutes from June 8<sup>th</sup> 2022 meeting. No discussion. P. Bathen made a motion to accept the minutes. D. Ahern seconded, motion passed unanimously.
4. Review/Creation of Mission Statement for the Advisory Group. Group has agreed that we need a mission statement but with the absence of member Julia Chase, decided it was best to continue that conversation to the next meeting in August. The group agreed to look for ideas and bring them to the group in August.
5. Next Meeting: August 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 2:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Reynolds  
Economic Development Director