

**MONTAGUE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION
TOWN HALL
1 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376**

MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday June 21, 2023 at 4:00PM
REMOTE MEETING**

Present: Ella Ingraham, Kimbely Williams, John Furbish, James Mussoni, Linda Ackerman, Rob Steinberg

Absent: Richard Ruth

Staff: Walter Ramsey, Maureen Pollock

Meeting opened 4:00 PM vice chair James Missoni presiding.

Minutes of April 12 were approved by unanimous role call vote.

- Former Farren Care Center Property Re-use study stakeholder input session facilitated by VHB consultants and Montague Planning Department

Present: Luke Mitchell, Jennifer Nelson VHB, Maureen Pollock

The EDIC participated in a focus group session hosted by VHB. The discussion included the potential for commercial and residential development on the site. Some of the concerns is the effect of development on neighboring town centers, the commercial tax rate is potential threat, the need for senior housing and other types seems to be unknown (to be addressed in a market study). There is also a need to engage and include young populations. Childcare is also a need county-wide. Need for park or playground in the village. It was suggested to look at the Arbors in Greenfield as a model.

- 38 Avenue A Demolition Updates

Project has been bid and awarded to Associated Building Wreckers of Springfield. Work to commence in August.

- Discussion: site development interest and potential rezoning at Turnpike Road property (Map 21 Lot 152) 16 acres behind new DPW.

WR reports interested from a local precision manufacturing firm in this parcel of land behind the new DPW. The parcel was split from the DPW with the intent to repurpose the use of the land. It has water and sewer access, is flat, and had great soils for development. The Planning Board is recommending a zone change from Neighborhood Business to General Business. The Selectboard will also need to seek authority to sell for economic development purposes. The EDIC agreed that the plan would be beneficial for economic development in Montague. WR to bring more details at the next meeting.

- Next Meeting : August 16 4PM- in person

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Ramsey