

DRAFT Egremont Planning Board Meeting Minutes

Innes Consulting Strategy Meeting

January 27, 2022

Call to order: 11:03 AM.

Meeting hosted on Zoom by Innes Associates, Ltd.

Present: Emily Innes (EI) Innes Associates Ltd, Tracy Adamski (TA) Tighe and Bond, David Seligman (DS) Chair Conservation Commission, Peg McDonough (PM) Egremont ARPA Administrator, Eileen Vining, Lucinda Vermeulen Board of Selectmen.

Planning Board: Jared Kelly (JK) Chair, Mary McGurn (MM), Stephen Lyle (SL) Clerk, Eddie Regendahl (ER). Absent Matthew Bersani (MB).

Updates and discussion

EI discussed the overall schedule and timing. The OSRP and Comprehensive Plans will proceed in parallel. TA suggested that public engagement segments would be best accomplished as a combined event. EI asked about the grant deadline; it is 2024. EI suggested that the PB consider the Mass Downtown Initiative as a One Stop for Growth Expression of Interest. DS discussed the overall timing for OSRP, additional funding options, and timelines.

JK asked about the composition and structure of committee(s). EI described starting with one committee, which might then split into subcommittees. She suggested 8-12 people total. She proposed her first meeting be in March, when she will visit Egremont for a walk around. After that, meetings would be every other month. She suggested a mix of long-term residents, recent move-ins, business owners, commuters, younger people, and residents with solid interests for committee composition. TA suggested members from boards such as ConCom, the PB, the Historical Commission, teenagers, and residents from "Friends Of" groups (such as Prospect Lake). MM, regarding youth participation, suggested Elia Del Molino, Conservation Director at Greenagers.

One Stop for Growth Expressions of Interests.

According to PM, the BoS has identified 5 EOI's. They are as follows:

1. Rezoning initiative – building support for growth & change in Egremont
2. Supporting and growing Egremont's small business economy
3. Assessment of underutilized buildings for development potential
4. Pre-Building site preparation and infrastructure for affordable housing site
5. Developing a strategic plan for regional Egremont Fire Dept.

EI thought the 5 EOIs would be well received by the state and related to the Comprehensive Plan and OSRP work.

EI suggested monthly check-in meetings. General agreement to hold these meetings at 11:30 AM after the regular PB Wednesday meetings conclude.

EI requested any materials deemed helpful to her work, including town-owned buildings, town services programs, documents related to the proposed affordable housing, historic commission materials, ConCom stewardship initiatives, etc. MM offered to email drone footage of Egremont, BRPc's Town of Egremont Housing Needs Assessment, and SK Design Group's Evaluation of the Town-Owned Parcel for Affordable Housing.

EI will be submitting a final contract shortly.

The meeting adjourned at 11:49 AM.

