

MPIC Minutes for February 7th, 2024

Attendance: Dave Golden, Amber Kumpulanian (Chair), Patience Hartley, Nick Zeo, Jessica Sizer, John Latour (Community Development- Palmer), Harrison Giza (reporter- Turley Publications)

Meeting began at 5:58pm

The committee voted to accept the matrix from the meeting with Pathfinder Superintendent Eric Duda.

The committee welcomed Community Developer John Latour. Latour gave his background including being in Palmer for 2 years but in the business for 35.

Amber went over each high priority action item and John updated the committee on them.

John highlighted several successes for Palmer including the development of the Three Rivers Mills and park area, several sidewalk projects that are currently in progress, as well as adding affordable housing to Palmer, and looking forward to the development of RT 32 and the railroad stop. He was also very proud of the regional organizations that support Palmer including the Worcester Housing Authority.

Several committee members asked questions and followed up on various items.

John also spoke about several barriers including private owners not always being willing to look at multi use facilities for their properties where some could be office or retail space and some affordable housing. He also mentioned that infrastructure in Palmer, particularly the water, can be a drawback when it comes to building and supporting housing where it is needed. He would like to see more use from our older buildings including school buildings such as Thorndike and better use of our old mills.

John spoke about what recommendations he had which included more funding for his department and an increase in local engagement including a community advisory committee.

The committee agreed to meet on March 27th. Amber would try to reach out to Matt Morris from DPW.

The meeting ended at 7:33pm