

Justin Paré, President
John Simmons, Vice President
Daniel Donovan
Mark Gould, Jr.
Darius Gregory



Kathleen Prescott
Patrick Reynolds
Andrew Shanahan
Andrea Slobogan

Town of North Attleborough
TOWN COUNCIL
43 South Washington Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760
Phone: (508) 699-0100

1/30/2023 - Minutes

I. Roll Call

Members Present:

Chairman Darius Gregory
Vice Chairperson Andrea Slobogan
Christopher Roche
Richard McCarthy

Members Absent:

Andrew Shanahan

Staff and Residents Present:

Town Manager Borg
Economic Development Coordinator Lyle Pirnie

Documents reviewed:

II. Pledge Of Allegiance

III. Approval Of Minutes

- a. Minutes of September 27, 2022 Meeting
- b. Minutes of October 3, 2022 Meeting

IV. Resident And Community Comment

V. Old Business

- a. Measure 2023-009- Allocation of \$100,000.00 of ARPA Funding for the formation of the North Attleborough Business Initiative
 - a. Funding sources \$100,00 from ARPA funding which must be obligated prior to 2026. In addition, there is a \$150,000 legislative earmark from Senator Feeney. These are not appropriated dollars.

- b. Meetings with financial institutions, educational institutions and small businesses, and with a unnamed business venture who currently operates a micro version of this same type of venture.
 - c. Mixed focus incubator/accelerator - this is for both conceptual and established businesses. The goal is to create new startups and to foster job growth. North Attleboro Business Incubator Accelerator Program (NABIAP).
 - d. We are looking for some of the partners to help provide some business infrastructure and mentorship.
 - e. Access to a network of local businesses that can provide resources and assistance and expertise to younger businesses. Where might they get grant funding? This access to connections and peers is the most requested thing in other incubator/accelerator programs.
 - f. How can the town and town offices become an asset for business growth and development by helping people to understand the processes required to start a business and help to streamline that process for them?
 - g. Our operational model shows NABIAP as a board of directors that assists budding ideas, new companies and new ideas from existing companies.
 - i. They must submit a detailed business plan, with funding requirements to be reviewed over the course of multiple meetings, discussing the feasibility of their business plan. The board will then vote on if that plan is worthy of funding or if it needs further refinement.
 - ii. Initial assistance will be capped at \$25,000 per company.
 - iii. The business then would be evaluated after 2 years to see how if they are a going concern, and their prospects of remaining so, and if additional funding is being requested and if more funding is warranted at that time.
 - a. We would like successful members to be future participants on the board.
2. We are looking for an external sponsor to become the primary organization for this, but the town would do the recruitment for the board of strategic partners.
3. Timeline
- a. **March June-** Board to set the processes and standards to be used and operate close to open meeting law being that it is public funds that are being spent. **Bylaws, rules and regulations to be set.**
 - b. **July-September-** Ask town council for approval of ARPA funding. This would be the marketing, promotion and application period as well.
 - c. The initial operational/application period would be 10/23-10/24.
 - d. June of 2024-Annual report of the strategic partners back to the town council detailing number of business, funding given out and current status of the program. How is the funding being used, and is it showing up in new business growth for the town.

- e. October 2024-October 2025- Further development of the program
- f. June of 2025 – Another updated by the strategic partners to the town council
- g. September 2025 – Closeout report under the deadline.

4. Discussions have been had with SEED Corp. What synergies are there with their existing foundation with NABIAP goals?

5. Vice Chairperson Slobogan, voiced concerns regarding the administration of the program, the board, leadership and the time commitment by a startup business to the program and the ability for existing businesses to participate in the accelerator part of the program.

6. Chairman Gregory- Is there a deadline for the earmarked funds to be encumbered?

7. Richard McCarthy- The need to shift this to an external agency that can use an existing framework is a critical component to this program for the long term effectiveness of the program.

8. There is a for-profit business that may help to house this program, which the town is currently in conversations with.

9. Chairman Gregory made a motion to continue measure 2023-009 Allocation of \$100,000 ARPA funding for North Attleboro business initiative. Approved 4-0.

VI. New Business

- a. North Attleborough Economic Development Discussion of On-Going Projects and Initiatives

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Gregory moved to adjourn.

Vice Chairperson Slobogan motioned to adjourn at 6:38.

Motion carried 4-0

Meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm