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Economic Development Commission Meeting
Grafton Municipal Building
April 20, 2021, 7:00 pm, Minutes

1. Evan Bassad, the new Town Administrator meet with the EDC. The EDC provided an overview of some of the successes. This included ShopGraftonMA, training programs for business owners and prospective business owners and 8 Pine Street. The EDC also shared their experiences of trying to get a hotel built in Grafton.

2. An overview of the Grafton restaurant program was provided by John Allen. The Town purchased $300 in gift certificates from each restaurant. All of the gift certificates were in $10 increments. The gift certificates were then put in envelopes that didn't allow people to know, which restaurant. The envelopes were distributed to retail stores in Grafton. The retail stores then established their criteria for handing out the gift certificates. The restaurants and the retail were both very happy with the program.

3. The prior meeting was a joint working meeting with the Select Board. During the meeting, members of the Select Board expressed their desire for the Town to increase the number of retail cannabis licenses from two to three. The process for this to happen requires a warrant article, then a vote by the Town at the Town meeting. All members of the EDC supported a joint warrant article with the Select Board supporting a third cannabis retail license.

4. No other matters were discussed.