



**Economic Development Commission
Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 5:00p.m
Room 112, Walpole Town Hall**

Minutes

Attending: Chris Walker, Chairman; John Hasenjaeger; Donnell Murphy; Richard Shields; Beth Pelick; Paul Lunn; Michael Slemmer and Stephanie Mercandetti, Community & Economic Development Director.

1) The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Chairman Walker.

2) Public Open Forum:

There were no non-members present to speak.

3) Approval of Minutes:

There was no draft meeting minutes available for members to review. This item will be held until the next meeting.

4) Ongoing Business:

(a) 2014 Business Forum:

(i) Forum Logistics

Ms. Mercandetti informed members that the Annual Business Forum is set for Thursday, November 13th from 7:30-9:00am at the Walpole Country Club. She is in the process of confirming with Mr. Ken Fettig and the Walpole Country Club. Similar to past years, the Chairman will act as the master of ceremonies for the event. The event includes a program, remarks from the Town and the Business Recognition Awards. Ms. Mercandetti noted that we are now nine weeks away. A Save the Date will be distributed via email within the next few days.

(ii) Topics/Speakers

Members discussed a variety of issues of importance to businesses and potential speakers for this year's event. Topics included crime, security, regionalization of municipal services, transit-oriented development, cyber security, OSHA, etc. Members discussed the benefits of each topic and the level of interest. Mr. Lunn, Mr. Slemmer and Mr. Hasenjaeger spoke about individuals that could present on these topics. They will make contact and report back to Ms. Mercandetti.

(b) Follow up discussion re: August 12th BOS Facilities Plan Presentation:

Mr. Murphy reviewed the scope of the project according to the August 12th presentation. Mr. Hasenjaeger gave his recollection of past overrides in Town. He is not pleased that the Board of Selectmen was not giving voters a menu of options (a la carte) to choose from and doesn't feel it will fly in town. Members questioned the effect of such a plan on downtown improvements and economic

development. What are the benefits to the businesses? Mr. Murphy stated that he felt there is a huge disconnect between business and the town.

During the discussion, the following questions were raised:

1. Why have everything combined into one debt exclusion vs. a la carte options?
2. What will the effects be on downtown revitalization? Will this impact any future downtown improvements?
3. What will the impact be on the overall economic development of this Town?
4. How will the plan impact the schools and their proposed needs?
5. What is the 10-year projection of debt coming on and coming off?

As these questions were raised, it was decided to pull together a list and distribute via email to all members for input. The questions would then be asked at the breakfast meeting being held by the Chamber Board of Directors.

(c) Additional Liquor Licenses meeting with Selectmen:

The letter from Chairman Walker to Chairman Gallivan was sent after last month's meeting. Members were distributed a copy. An appointment has been set for Tuesday, October 14th at 7:30pm for the EDC to meet with the Board of Selectmen on this issue.

(d) Downtown Strategic Action Plan:

Ms. Mercandetti gave an update on her conversations with Matthew Smith of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, who will be working on this project, including the timeline for this project from commencement to completion. She added that a Project Team will be pulled together to assist. Following further discussion, Chairman Walker, Mr. Murphy and Ms. Pelick agreed to help with the project. The project is expected to kick-off in the month of October.

(e) Business Outreach/Ambassador Program:

Ms. Mercandetti stated that Cumberland Farms is before the Planning Board for a proposed project that calls for a raze, rebuild and expansion of the current store on Route 1A near Norfolk Street. The other three tenants will be displaced as part of this project. She will be assisting these businesses in helping them to find alternative locations. In addition, Dedham Auto Mall has refiled with the Planning Board due to some additional areas of the property that they paved.

5) Any Other Business: None.

6) Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 5:00pm in Room 112 in Town Hall.

It was also noted that the second Tuesday in November would be Veterans Day. Members felt it was important to meet prior to the business forum to discuss last minute items for the event, therefore, it was agreed that the EDC should meet on Monday, November 10th.

7) Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Shields to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY