



TOWN OF WESTFORD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

TOWN HALL
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Meeting Minutes
Economic Development Committee

Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 8:15 AM
Town Hall, Main Conference Room, 2nd Floor
55 Main Street, Westford

Attending: Tom Barry (Remotely), Ron Caterino, Eli Demetri, Jeff Hillam, Bill Nussbum (Acting Chair), Andrea Peraner-Sweet, Tom West

Visitor: Fran Osman, Member of Acton EDC

The meeting was called to order by Bill Nussbum at 8:15 AM.

Administrative Items

The Draft Minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting were approved by roll-call vote with one abstention.

Heather Maietta has expressed interest in volunteering to join the EDC to fill the current opening. Tom Barry will arrange an interview with her to discuss the EDC activities and what is involved in being a member.

Article 25 for the upcoming Town Meeting was discussed. The article would increase the open-meeting recording requirements. A motion was made for the EDC to express support for rejection of the article. The motion was approved unanimously by roll-call vote.

12 North Main Street Task Force

The foreclosure process is proceeding. The necessary paperwork has been filed and the decision is in the hands of the Land Court. A public meeting was held on February 26 and was well attended with over 50 residents participating actively. Most questions focused on the pollutant cleanup requirements and appeared to be answered to the satisfaction of the residents.

Article 10 at Town Meeting would transfer ownership of the foreclosed property from the Tax Possession and Sale Committee to the Board of Selectmen and would approve funding for environmental insurance. A motion was made for the EDC to express support for the article. The motion was approved unanimously by roll-call vote.

Westford Business Association (WBA)

A Quarterly Meeting was held at Juniper Systems on March 10 and featured presentations by the Town Managers of Littleton, Chelmsford and Westford. Dan Bush announced that a Retailer's Workshop will be held at Princeton Properties on April 21. Barry Bluestone will be the Keynote Speaker at the Annual Meeting in November. WBA membership is 80+ and growing.

School/Business Leaders Meeting

Bill Olsen plans to conduct the meeting on April 9 at the Millennium School. Leading Westford business representatives will be invited to discuss and evaluate the school curriculum and skills required for students to compete successfully in today's workplace upon graduation.

Snow Storm Loan Fund

Microloan funds of \$5-10K at 5% for 3 years are being offered in a State program headed by Peter Milano of MOBD. The funds are available to businesses in gateway communities which can show financial need due to loss of business attributable to snow storms.

Cross Town Connect

A reverse commuting shuttle survey is ongoing. A goal is to get smaller companies involved. The next meeting is in Boxboro on March 27.

Village Meeting with Graniteville

Bill has discussed holding a joint meeting to include the 12 N Main Task Force with Jane Calvin, an active member of the Graniteville neighborhood and of the Task Force. An e-mail list of interested residents is available from the Task Force and will be used to help announce the meeting. May 28 has been suggested as the tentative meeting date.

EDSAT Project

All of the paperwork has been completed and the key to access the survey has been received. Ron will keep the key and maintain the master copy up to date. The question of what communities we should be compared against was discussed. That decision will be made at a future time following further deliberation.

The EDSAT survey consists of 254 questions. Copies of specific groups of questions were distributed to those EDC participants responsible for each group. The answers should be fed to Ron for entry into the master copy as soon as available. Useful resources for obtaining the required information include NMCOG and the Dukakis Center.

Follow-up to Forge Village 10/01/2014 Meeting

Jodi has prepared written responses to most of the issues raised at the meeting and will send them to Tom Barry.

The meeting adjourned, by unanimous vote, at 9:40 AM.

Respectfully Submitted
Tom Barry – Committee Chair