



Town of Westminster

MASSACHUSETTS 01473

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Phone: (978) 874-7414

Economic Development Committee (EDC) – Meeting Minutes for January 6, 2016

Members Present - Joe Serio, Erik Callahan, Jeff Crowley and Ralph LeBlanc.

Others Present - Steve Wallace - Town Planner, and Roy M. Nascimento, President of the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce.

Members Absent - Scott Aubuchon and Wayne Walker.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM by Vice Chairman Crowley.

The meeting began with an introduction of our special guest: Roy M. Nascimento, President of the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Nascimento gave an overview of his background as well as current and future initiatives planned by the Chamber. There was a wide ranging discussion about economic development in the region and the sectors that comprise it, particularly manufacturing and tourism. Our guest departed at 8:00 PM and the Committee continued on with its agenda.

The Committee reviewed its choices of businesses it would like to solicit, using the Worcester Business Journal's Top 100 Business List as our starting point. The EDC will spend the spring and summer drafting solicitation packages that will be sent to these businesses, each package containing an introductory letter jointly signed by the Board of Selectmen and the EDC, a fact sheet highlighting the region's resources and amenities, and lastly our Town's promotional brochure. The cost of printing the solicitation packages has been built into the EDC's annual budget for Fiscal Year 2017.

The Town Planner discussed the zoning amendments proposed by the Planning Board for the May 2016 Annual Town Meeting. The EDC's homework for its next meeting is to review these amendments. The Town Planner will be seeking the EDC's endorsement of these amendments at its next meeting in March.

The Town Planner also discussed a project the Town has proposed to the Governor's Community Compact Program: funding to have the Dukakis Center at Northeastern University assist the Town with an Economic Development Self-Assessment. This project will review our current regulatory and permitting systems for new economic development and recommend improvements. The Town should know by March if this project was selected for funding.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM. The next meeting of the EDC will be Wednesday night, March 2, 2016 at 7:00 PM in Room 112.