



Town of Westminster

MASSACHUSETTS 01473

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Phone: (978) 874-7414

Economic Development Committee (EDC) – Meeting Minutes for November 5, 2014

Members Present: Wayne Walker, Richelle Brown, Ralph LeBlanc, Jeff Crowley, and Joe Serio

Others Present: Steve Wallace, Town Planner, and a reporter for the Gardner News.

Members Absent: Scott Aubuchon

Guests: Ed Simoncini – Board of Health, Elizabeth Swedberg – Health Agent, DJ Wilson – MA Municipal Association.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Serio.

The meeting began with a discussion about the Board of Health's proposed regulations to ban the sale of tobacco products throughout the entirety of Town. The Health Agent and Mr. Simoncini outlined what they were planning to do and why they were doing it. After much discussion, it was the consensus of the EDC members that while the intent of the proposal was noble, the practical effect would be harmful to our local businesses and would hurt our efforts to promote Westminster as a business friendly community. The EDC favors an education-based approach to the problem and expressed a willingness to work with the Board of Health towards that end.

Upon the departure of our guests, the minutes from the September meeting were reviewed. Jeff made a motion to accept the minutes. Wayne seconded. The motion passed 5 to 0.

The EDC moved onto discussing the promotional brochure/map. The Town Planner noted that the grant check has been received and the design/print vendor (Talon Graphics out of Leominster) is now under contract. MRPC has prepared a GIS-location coverage of our points of interest which has been turned over to Talon Graphics. Our next step is to review the points of interest database and revise as necessary. It was agreed that the EDC members would make one last review of the database and get their edits to the Town Planner by no later than Friday morning November 14th. From there, the database will be sent to Talon Graphics and they will attend our January 2015 meeting to present the first mock-up of the map/brochure.

The Town Planner updated the EDC on where things stood with the DPW Commissioner's plans for addressing the Town's sewer capacity issue.

The last issue discussed was the possibility of the Town hosting a fall-themed festival towards the end of October next year. Chairman Serio outlined his ideas for such a festival. The Town Planner noted that the Agricultural Commission wanted to meet with the EDC to discuss a similar idea, and it was agreed that the EDC would invite the Agricultural Commission to its January 2015 meeting to discuss.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM. The next meeting of the EDC will be Wednesday night, January 7th, 2014 at 7:00 PM in Room 112.