



Town of Westminster

MASSACHUSETTS 01473

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Economic Development Committee (EDC) – Meeting Minutes for January 3, 2018

Members Present - Joe Serio, Jeff Crowley, Ralph LeBlanc, Eric Callahan and Jim Delisle

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Chairman Serio.

The Town Planner provided updates on the following projects:

- Mass-Development Site Readiness Grant: Mass-Development will come back before the EDC at its February meeting to present its findings, including the results of its market analysis and infrastructure improvement recommendations for the Westminster Business Park and Simplex Drive.
- Business Solicitation Effort: we have a high school senior that wanted a Town project to work on, so he is helping the Town Planner find CEO names and mailing addresses for the 60 companies we plan to send solicitation packages to. We anticipate wrapping up this effort by early March.
- Town Planner handed out new copies of the reprinted promotional map/brochure. 2,000 copies were printed and that should last us about three years.
- The in-line sewer storage system is now operational and the sewer connection moratorium was lifted in December. The Town Planner expects development activity to pick up as a result.
- The Town Planner explained that Aubuchon Hardware is looking to find a new use for its 450,000 square foot warehouse. A deal with a medical marijuana firm recently fell through, thus the search continues for a new tenant(s) for the warehouse. The Town Planner explained that Aubuchon would have many more reuse options available if the property were to be rezoned from Commercial to Industrial. The EDC members were receptive to this rezoning idea, but asked if perhaps the property could be rezoned to a combination commercial/industrial zoning district. The Town Planner said he would look into this possibility and get back to the EDC with his findings.
- The next topic discussed was retail sales and distribution of recreational marijuana and how the Town plans to zone for such uses. Town Planner said he is working with Town Counsel on an options memo for the Selectmen and that some sort of public forum would be held on this topic, most likely in early February. The EDC will wait to review the options memo before taking a formal position on this matter.
- The last topic discussed was a wayfaring signage program for the Town, which the EDC has been discussing since its inception. The Town Planner suggested having the EDC sponsor a late May public forum to seek citizen input on what the Town should advertise as part of its wayfaring signage program and what the signs should look like. Local sign companies would be invited to the forum to help participants sketch out ideas. Another matter to be covered in the public forum would be a Town bulletin board to be located on Town-owned property at the intersections of

South Street, Leominster Street and Academy Hill Road. The forum would seek input on what this bulletin board would look like. The EDC was receptive to holding such a forum and set aside its March meeting to plan out the logistics for holding it on a Saturday morning in late May.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next meeting of the EDC will take place on Wednesday February 7th.