



Town of Westminster

MASSACHUSETTS 01473

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Phone: (978) 874-7414

Economic Development Committee (EDC) – Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2018

Members Present - Ralph LeBlanc, Eric Callahan and Jim Delisle

Members Absent - Joe Serio and Jeff Crowley

Others in Attendance - Joan Longcope, Roni Beal of the Historical Commission, and ML Altobelli, Dean Johnson, Sheryl Vaillette and Ann Patsis of the Agricultural Commission

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Jim Delisle.

The first order of business was a presentation on a demolition delay bylaw proposed by the Historical Commission. Commission members Joan Longcope and Roni Beal explained that the bylaw is based on a documented list of historic buildings and how the process would work when someone applies for a Demolition Permit from the Building Department. If the permit application was for an historic home on the list, then the Historical Commission would have a hearing and, if the structure was found to be historically significant, they would implement a 12-month demolition delay period, during which time the Commission would explore preservation options for the structure. The EDC members in attendance asked some questions and there was a general discussion on how the bylaw would work. It was agreed that the Commission would send the EDC the latest version of the bylaw for review and comment. The EDC took no formal position on the matter and will wait to review the most recent bylaw draft.

Next up was discussing the logistics for holding a public event for the EDC's next initiative: a wayfaring signage program for the Town. The program is intended to provide directional signage to the Town's various points of interest for visitors and new residents. The Agricultural Commission is very interested in working with the EDC on this matter, thus their attendance tonight. It was decided that the event would be held on Saturday morning June 9th, from 10 am to noon in the Selectmen's meeting room. The purpose of the public forum is to seek citizen input on what the Town should advertise as part of its wayfaring signage program, where the signs should be located and what the signs should look like. The Town Planner noted there were a couple of grant programs that could help fund this endeavor.

One question that arose is whether or not the Town could advertise a private commercial venture like the Wachusett Ski Area or the Old Mill Restaurant. The Town Planner will seek Town Counsel's guidance on this. The forum will use a dot preference exercise to determine the top ten points of interest to advertise through the wayfaring signage program. The Town Planner requested that if anyone has some good pictures of wayfaring signage, they send them to him for use in the presentation.

The forum will cover one additional topic: seeking input on how to design a community bulletin board to be located on Town-owned property at the intersections of South Street, Leominster Road and Academy Hill Road.

The meeting wrapped up with the Town Planner and EDC members discussing some follow-up steps for the recently completed Mass-Development Site Readiness Grant. The Town Planner noted that 100 Simplex Drive had just been sold and that the Town should invite the new owner in for a discussion on their plans for future development of the vacant land along Simplex Drive.

The Town Planner also noted that he would soon be meeting with the owners of the Westminster Business Park to discuss moving forward with a redesign of the Depot Road intersection, which may be eligible for the next round of Site Readiness Grants.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM. The next meeting of the EDC will take place on Wednesday June 6th.