



# Town of Westminster

MASSACHUSETTS 01473

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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## **Economic Development Committee (EDC) – Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2016**

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

Others Present - Steve Wallace - Town Planner, Ned LaFortune and guest from the Wachusett Brewery.

Members Absent - Scott Aubuchon.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairman Serio.

The meeting began with approval of the minutes from October 5th meeting (all in favor).

The meeting started with Mr. LaFortune and his partner giving an overview of their expansion plans for the Wachusett Brewery. They need to work through some licensing issues with the State and may need some changes to the State liquor laws in order to pursue their planned expansion. The EDC was very supportive of their plans and asked how it could help. The Town Planner suggested that the Brewery prepare an outline of their plans that he could review with the Building Commissioner to make sure there are no zoning conflicts. If there are, the Town Planner, Planning Board and EDC will work with the Brewery to make the necessary zoning changes.

The Town Planner provided updates on the economic development self-assessment project being funded by the Governor's Community Compact program. The 250-question survey is almost complete and will be sent to the Dukakis Center at Northeastern University within the next few weeks. The Dukakis Center will come out to town on Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup> to review our survey responses with local officials. From there, they will compare our responses with the 100 other communities that have undergone economic self-assessments to see where Westminster ranks. The Dukakis Center will return early in the New Year to present their findings and make recommendations on how the Town can improve its economic development strategy.

The EDC will invite our graphics person to its January meeting to discuss the design and printing costs of our business solicitation materials.

Chairman Serio took some time to debrief the Committee on how the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Cracker Festival went, which was held on Saturday October 22nd. The rain and wind did dampen attendance from the first year, but not that much. Lessons were learned that will help the planning for next year's festival.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next meeting of the EDC will be Wednesday night, December 7, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Our special guests will be representatives from Northeastern University's Dukakis Center who will review our survey answers for the economic development self-assessment project.