



Town of Westminister

MASSACHUSETTS 01473

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Economic Development Committee (EDC) – Meeting Minutes for August 5, 2015

Members Present: Joe Serio, Bud Taylor, Erik Callahan, Jeff Crowley and Ralph LeBlanc.

Others Present: Steve Wallace - Town Planner, Special Guest Tim Sappington of the North Central MA Workforce Investment Board, and press from the Sentinel & Enterprise.

Members Absent: Scott Aubuchon and Wayne Walker.

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

The meeting began with an introduction of our special guest: Tim Sappington of the North Central MA Workforce Investment Board. Tim spent 45 minutes giving us an overview of the Workforce Investment Board, outlined several successful projects and some projects currently in progress. The discussion turned to how the Board could help with job training for businesses and industries looking to locate in Westminister. EDC Member Jeff Crowley volunteered to be Westminister's Representative on the Board. Tim departed around 7:45 PM.

The EDC reviewed and approved the minutes from the June 3rd EDC meeting.

EDC Member Bud Taylor discussed his idea of having Central MA host a cycling event as part of the 2024 Boston Olympics, but with Boston now out of the running, this idea is moot. The Committee did express an interest in having the region host cycling events in the future.

The Town Planner discussed the next item: MRPC's recent acquisition of \$400,000 in funds from the federal Brownfields program. The Planner described the program details, as did EDC member Bud Taylor who has worked for this program in a professional capacity. The Planner provided the EDC with the Town's initial list of Westminister properties that could be potential Brownfield candidates and asked to review and provide feedback by no later than Friday August 14th.

The Committee was then assigned some homework: go through the Worcester Business Journal's Top 100 Business List, circle those businesses that might be a good fit for Westminister, and then bring their choices to the next EDC meeting.

The Town Planner discussed the Planning Board's Village Center Zoning Initiative and made arrangements for the Board's consultant (Community Opportunities Group) to meet with the EDC on Wednesday September 2nd.

Chairman Serio concluded the meeting with brief update on the planning for the Cracker Festival to be held in October.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. The next meeting of the EDC will be Wednesday night, September 2nd, 2015 at 7:00 PM in Room 112.