

Committee Members

Zachary Knowlton, Chair
Khalid Abdi, Vice Chair
Richard Di Iulio, Member
Mark Schultz, Member
Cassandra McKenzie, Member
Jennifer Kendall, Member
Liam McDermott, Member



TOWN OF MEDWAY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present Remotely: Zach Knowlton, Chair, Khalid Abdi, Vice Chair, Mark Schultz, Rich Di Iulio, Jennifer Kendall

Members Absent: Liam McDermott, Cassandra McKenzie

Also Present Remotely:

Barbara J. Saint Andre, Director, Community and Economic Development
Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

Chair Knowlton opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. and members announced themselves.

New Business

Assistance to business owners affected by COVID-19 emergency

Currently no updates.

Job Fair

Ms. Saint Andre has been in contact with the assistant principal at the High School. He is on board to have another job fair in the spring. There are plans to do it during the flex period around lunch time, so students are available. She is hoping to get as many businesses involved as last time, if not more. Mr. Di Iulio asked if we knew how many people were hired through the last job fair. Ms. Saint Andre stated almost all of the businesses had people come in for interviews. Mr. Schultz asked about holding a job fair for seniors.

Restaurant Week

Ms. Saint Andre indicated that she has contacted the President of Medway Business Council. The Business Council members do not have the ability to help with Restaurant Week this year. The Economic Development Committee can host it. Mr. Knowlton stated it's a large undertaking and the restaurants are very busy. 12 or 13 restaurants participated last year.

Business Resource Guide: Discuss state funding grant and consultant responses to RFQ

The request for quotations (RFQ) was sent to about 13-14 different entities. One response was received, from the UMass Amherst Donahue Institute for \$32,000. The grant is in the amount of \$40,000, which leaves \$8,000 available for website. The cost to put the Resource Guide on the town website is around \$1,000. The consultant will work with EDC, Ms. Saint Andre, and Medway Business Council to gather information for the website. It will be a snapshot of Medway businesses

and entities available to assist new businesses in town, such as realtors, attorneys, etc. Community and Economic Development Department will update the site quarterly or monthly to keep it dynamic. Town staff will need to be trained to keep it up to date.

Discussion on potential brew pub pop up event

Ms. Saint Andre received an email from the owner of the Medway Commons plaza. The Medway Commons would be interested in holding this event. They prefer using the area of the former yoga business. There is space outside to set up tables. The owner asked for the event to be held before May 31st.

Reports

Update on Cultural Council Initiatives and Potential EDC Involvement

Ms. Kendall stated they have a lot going on this month, including a Zoom performance yesterday. Grants for 2022 are very exciting.

Master Plan Committee

Still on track. A focus group on the vision of responsible development was held recently. More public comment opportunities will be available in the upcoming master plan discussions.

Use of Economic Data

Chair Knowlton stated he has no updates.

Planning and Economic Development Board (PEDB)

Mr. Di Iulio stated that Phytopia is still moving forward with a site plan and Ground Water Protection district special permit. The town is looking to update Choate Park parking. The PEDB is reviewing a site plan application for the water treatment plant on Populatic Street. The PEDB just approved Cutler Place multi-family housing on Cutler Street. Last night PEDB had a presentation from the consultant on battery energy storage systems (BESS). Looking to work on getting a meaningful by-law put into place to go forward with BESS or to decide not to allow them. The PEDB is still gathering information.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2022

On a motion made by Mr. Di Iulio; seconded by Mr. Schultz, the Economic Development Committee voted by roll call vote to approve the meeting minutes from January 20, 2022.

Khalid Abdi	Aye
Rich Di Iulio	Aye
Mark Schultz	Aye
Zach Knowlton	Aye
Jennifer Kendall	Abstain

Next Meeting: March 17, 2022 via Zoom

Tonight was Mr. Knowlton's last meeting. The members thanked him for his leadership. Ms. Saint Andre asked the group if they wanted to meet remotely or in person.

On a motion made by Mr. Abdi; seconded by Mr. Di Iulio, the Economic Development Committee voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.

Khalid Abdi	Aye
Rich Di Iulio	Aye
Mark Schultz	Aye
Zach Knowlton	Aye
Jennifer Kendall	Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

Edited by
Barbara J. Saint Andre, Director
Community and Economic Development