

Committee Members

Khalid Abdi, Chair
Liam McDermott, Vice-Chair
Jessica Chabot, Member, PEDB
Representative
Mark Schultz, Member
Cassandra McKenzie, Member
Larry Presswood, Member



TOWN OF MEDWAY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Medway Town Hall – Sanford Hall
155 Village Street, Medway, MA
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Khalid Abdi, Liam McDermott, Cassandra McKenzie and Mark Schultz

Members Present via Phone: Larry Presswood

Members Absent: Jessica Chabot

Also Present: Barbara J. Saint Andre and Stuthi Balaji

The Chair, Mr. Abdi, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., and noted that member Larry Presswood was participating remotely.

New Business

Initiatives to assist local businesses

Ms. Saint Andre stated that the High School job fair was held on April 26th. Ms. Saint Andre stated that the Medway Business Council's annual business meeting at Restaurant 45 happened recently and encouraged members to join the Council's email list, members are welcome to attend Council meetings. Julie Dennehy is stepping down and Ann Sherry will be the new president of the Council.

Medway Pride Day

Ms. Saint Andre worked with Ms. Chabot to create the citizens survey and made 75 copies for the Committee's booth at the Pride Day event. She also brought some Business Guide pamphlets and 3 banners to be displayed at the booth as discussed at the last meeting. Members discussed how they would setup the booth and how they would handle the banners. Mr. McDermott and Mr. Abdi will help setup the booth between 8-9 a.m. Mr. McDermott will remain until noon and then return from 2-4 p.m. Mr. Abdi will remain until noon. Ms. McKenzie will cover the booth from 12-2 p.m. and Mr. Schultz will attend from 2-4 p.m. Mr. Presswood might attend, health permitting. There was some discussion about the need for beverages at the booth since it is not anticipated to be a very hot day. Mr. Schultz stated he will bring some beverages and drop them off between 8-9 a.m. Mr. Schultz asked if there was an elevator pitch that could be used at the booth to recruit members. Ms. Saint Andre suggested using the description from the website and Mr. Abdi suggested using the Committee's mission statement.

Recruiting New Committee Members

Patrick Herlihy is interested in joining the Committee as a member. Ms. Saint Andre will ask him to attend the Planning and Economic Development Board meeting in order to be appointed to the Committee. This leaves one additional position available that we need to recruit for.

Reports: Planning and Economic Development Board (PEDB)

Ms. Saint Andre reported that Tim Harris, John Parlee and Andy Rodenhiser were recently elected to the PEDB. Most matters pending before the Board were voted on and resolved prior to the turnover.

When Ms. McKenzie asked about the Medway Block, Ms. Saint Andre reported that the most recent Town Meeting approved an article for the appropriation of funds for a feasibility study of the property. Therefore, hiring a surveyor and completing the study would be the next step.

When Mr. Schultz asked about the proposed Battery Energy Storage Facility, Ms. Saint Andre reported that the area for the facility is zoned as AR II. The applicant petitioned the Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB) to exempt the proposed facility from zoning restrictions to allow the property to be used for the storage facility. However, the EFSB ruled that since the facility would not generate any electricity, it does not have jurisdiction over the decision. The petition is now pending before the state Department of Public Utilities to decide whether a zoning exemption will be granted.

Other Matters:

Ms. Saint Andre stated that she would add a discussion on the Medway Master Plan to the agenda for the Committee's next meeting. The Master Plan has a checklist of goals to be accomplished and there has been progress on a number of them. Since the Economic Development Committee has been identified as one of the committees that can help the town accomplish its goals, we should begin discussing them.

Cassandra McKenzie mentioned that the ARPA has been promoting a grant to help small businesses activate storefronts and suggested that the Committee promote the grant to Medway businesses that might be able to make use of it as well.

Cassandra McKenzie stated that this would be her last meeting and that it has been a pleasure to serve this Committee. All the members thanked her for her service.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2023

On a motion made by Liam McDermott, seconded by Cassandra McKenzie, the Committee unanimously by roll call vote to approve the April 20, 2023 meeting minutes 5-0

Khalid Abdi – Aye

Liam McDermott – Aye

Mark Schultz – Aye

Cassandra McKenzie – Aye

Larry Presswood - Aye

Next meeting – Scheduled for June 15, 2023

On a motion made by Cassandra McKenzie, seconded by Liam McDermott, the Committee voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn at 7:42 p.m.

Khalid Abdi – Aye

Liam McDermott – Aye

Mark Schultz – Aye

Cassandra McKenzie – Aye

Larry Presswood - Aye

Respectfully submitted,
Stuthi Balaji

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