

Committee Members

Khalid Abdi, Chair
Liam McDermott, Vice-Chair
Richard Di Iulio, Member
Mark Schultz, Member
Cassandra McKenzie, Member



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TOWN OF MEDWAY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Sanford Hall

Members Present: Khalid Abdi, Chair, Mark Schultz, Rich Di Iulio, Cassandra McKenzie, Liam McDermott

Also Present:

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

Chair Abdi opened the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

New Business

Initiatives to assist local businesses

The members at the last meeting had discussed trying to do more spotlight videos for local businesses that could be posted on the Town social media. Ms. Saint Andre stated that she spoke with Sandy Johnston, the Town's Communication Director, who has done a number of these videos. Some businesses are not interested or they are busy. Ms. Saint Andre asked committee members to give feedback on local businesses that would be interested in having a spotlight. Ms. Johnston will meet with them and Medway Cable to prepare the video. A post and/or video will be shared on social media. They would love to get new businesses to spotlight. It should be a Medway business. They specifically are looking for businesses that are active within the community, work with schools, local non-profits, etc. Mr. Abdi mentioned he got an email from Julie Dennehy to see how the Medway Business Council could help. He and Mr. McDermott mentioned they would reach out to a few businesses.

Recruiting New Committee Members

Mr. McDermott mentioned having a few conversations, but nothing concrete. Open positions are posted on the Town's website. Prospective members must live or work in Medway.

Mr. Schultz stated he and his wife moved to Medway shortly before the pandemic and they haven't met many folks. One of the topics in the Master Plan mentions building connections in Town. People meet informally at local restaurants and stores. The Town does have events which have been postponed due to the pandemic. Mr. Schultz mentioned going to the Library Makerspace, and was looking to donate funds for a 3D printer. Ms. Saint Andre mentioned that the EDC is mentioned quite a bit in the Master Plan.

Reminder: Biennial conflict of interest training

Ms. Saint Andre reminded members to take the training. There is a quiz at the end. Once completed, there is a certificate to fill out with name and board. Please print or mail the certificate to Human Resources (Katherine Bird) or provide to Ms. Saint Andre. Ms. Saint Andre emailed this to members this week.

Reports**Master Plan update – Cassandra McKenzie**

Ms. McKenzie stated there are about 94 strategies broken out by 4 themes. The Master Plan report, action plan, and the implementation plan are all nearing completion. There will be a Committee to implement the Master Plan and act as a liaison between various stakeholders to keep the Master Plan on task. The Implementation Committee would act as the steward. Ms. McKenzie's term on the Master Plan Committee will soon be coming to an end. The Master Plan goes to the Planning and Economic Development Board in October for approval. On Monday August 22nd – there is a public forum during the Master Plan Committee meeting. The Master Plan Committee can make a recommendation for the Implementation Committee, ultimately the Select Board will appoint. The meeting on Monday is on Zoom – if interested you can Zoom in. Comments are welcome.

Planning and Economic Development Board – Rich Di Iulio

Mr. Di Iulio stated at the last meeting they were discussing Master Plan Implementation and how best to do that. They are looking into a committee to meet once or twice a year, small group. Two marijuana facilities have pending applications – one is in the final stages of the process. Another one is expanding their current operations. Master's Touch – Renovation Company presented an application a few meetings ago. They did not review by-laws very well, they changed engineering companies going forward. They bought the property about a year ago between Hogan Tire and the Bank. The Board is also working on various amendments to the zoning by-laws for Fall Town Meeting. The Medway Grid application is already before the Energy Facilities Siting Board. The Town Manager and Select Board have a host community agreement with Medway Grid. He does not know when the Select Board will vote on it. Ms. Saint Andre believes it's on the agenda for Monday meeting. They have not reached an agreement on a PILOT.

Mr. Schultz asked about Master's Touch – The proposed showroom would be in the existing building up front and a new warehouse building in the back to hold materials for projects.

It was discussed how to request by-law changes. If someone wants to change a by-law, they can file a petition with the Select Board to be placed on the Town Meeting warrant. Ms. Saint Andre offered assistance to draft a petition. Signatures from ten registered voters are needed. The Town Clerk has forms. The Planning and Economic Development Board can also request a warrant article.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2022

On a motion made by Mr. McDermott, seconded by Mr. Abdi, the Economic Development Committee voted unanimously to approve the July 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Ms. McKenzie asked if there was an update on the Medway Commons, specifically the vacant stores where McDonalds and Medway Yoga used to be. Mr. Di Iulio stated that a daycare has been approved for the former Yoga studio. Nothing on McDonalds yet.

Juneteenth event – There was apparently some confusion with the date, as the flyer had the wrong date. Ms. McKenzie asked how the beer pub went? Mr. McDermott did not make it but heard a lot of good things about the event.

Next meeting – Scheduled for September 15, 2022

On a motion made by Mr. McDermott; seconded by Ms. McKenzie the Economic Development Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

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