

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

Medway Town Hall
155 Village Street
Medway, MA 02053
Telephone (508) 321-4890
Email: bsaintandre@townofmedway.org
www.townofmedway.org

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Sanford Hall

Medway Town Hall

155 Village Street, Medway

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

Member Absent: Zach Knowlton, Chair, Cassandra McKenzie, Liam McDermott

Also Present:

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

Vice Chair Abdi opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

New Business

Update on Cultural Council Initiatives

Ms. Kendall provided many updates. Artist spotlights have been running for a year- including twelve artists in total. Ms. Kendall stated they received a grant to paint utility boxes along Route 109, the paintings are currently in the Library instead of painting the boxes. They hosted the pixie project at the end of July. Ms. Kendall stated the houses came out nice. The houses are currently at the Library as well. Ms. Kendall mentioned the Bridge Festival in September- music artists are being arranged. Each bridge will have its own display and theme including the history of Medway.

Assistance to business owners affected by COVID-19 emergency/ Update on assistance to businesses seeking to hire

Ms. Saint Andre stated they are concentrating on shortage of people to hire. Ms. Saint Andre emailed information on the job fair for hospitality sector, there are job fairs in Natick and Marlborough coming up. One of the other ideas was to do something locally, at the high school. Ms. Saint Andre spoke to David Passeggio at the high school and the school department has approved a job fair there for September 15th. He has set up a link to send to the businesses which sends them to a google form for businesses to sign up. The school will reach out to the business to provide them details on the event and setup. Ms. Saint Andre mentioned they would like businesses signed up by September 8th. Ms. Saint Andre mentioned she also reached out to Medway Business Council to get assistance to promote this event as well as gather businesses to join the job fair. Ms. Saint Andre asked the members to get ideas flowing for businesses who may be interested. Ms. Saint Andre suggested creating flyers – Sandy Johnston may be able to assist. Medway Business

Council has email lists, use Medway's social media, and physically drive to the businesses to see if they'd like to participate. Salmon Health Care, Restaurant 45, Spencer Technologies, etc. Mr. Abdi suggested send email first to the businesses. Ms. Kendall asked if we could advertise on Choate Park signs, library, parks, senior center, etc. Mr. Abdi asked if they would consider the vocational school as well (Tri-County). Ms. Saint Andre stated not yet, but that is a great idea.

Mr. Di Iulio mentioned pandemic assistance funds ends on September 4th.

Mr. Schultz suggested it could be valuable to speak to the businesses in person. Mr. Schultz offered to make phone calls, as well as Mr. Abdi and Ms. Kendall.

Reports

Master Plan Committee

Mr. Di Iulio stated they are pushing the surveys to get more input. He mentioned there is a Community Forum on October 3rd at the High School. The Committee is meeting on Monday. Ms. Saint Andre stated "phase one" was basically data gathering. Phase 2 is to set goals for the Town (surveys will provide input as well as the focus groups). At the Community Forum there will be stations set up with display boards reflecting responses. They will find the trend and continue to share thoughts on the ideas. Mr. Di Iulio stated the forum is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with an open house format - stop by anytime.

Use of Economic Data

Mr. Abdi thanked Ms. Saint Andre for sharing information on Medway's 495 MetroWest Partnership link to Us Census Data. They will discuss further in the next meeting. Mr. Abdi asked if the data collected from Phase One would be shared. Ms. Saint Andre stated not yet, the draft is still being worked on. Possibly will be publicly released next week, but it should be presented at the Master Plan Committee on Monday. Master Plan committee meets on the 4th Monday of every month at the High School- also on Zoom or cable television.

Planning and Economic Development Board

Mr. Di Iulio provided latest updates from last PEDB meeting. He stated they have 3 projects in the permitting project, Medway Place, Rocky's Hardware, and Phytopia.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2021

On a motion made by Mr. Di Iulio; seconded by Ms. Kendall, the Economic Development Committee voted unanimously, 4-0, to approve the meeting minutes from July 15, 2021.

Mr. Abdi asked if there is a welcome package for new businesses in Town. He asked Ms. Saint Andre if this is something worth exploring. Resource Guide could be included for anyone applying for a Business Certificate or a license. Ms. Saint Andre asked if this should be a physical package or an email "Welcome to Medway". Mr. Abdi suggested when they come to the Town Hall and apply for a Business Certificate, a welcome packet could be given at that time. Mr. Di Iulio suggested email to include links for the businesses to explore. Ms. Saint Andre would like to look around for what to include in this packet and agrees this is a good idea. Ms. Saint Andre stated she will see what she can gather before the next meeting.

Next Meeting: September 23, 2021

On a motion made by Mr. Di Iulio; seconded by Mr. Schultz, the Economic Development Committee voted unanimously, 4-0 to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

Edited by

Barbara J. Saint Andre, Director

Community and Economic Development