

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, September 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Medway Town Hall – Sanford Hall
155 Village Street, Medway

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

Members Absent: Cassandra McKenzie

Also Present:

Barbara J. Saint Andre, Director, Community and Economic Development
Stuthi Balaji, Recording Secretary
Amy Rochford, Member of the Medway Cultural Council

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

New Business

Initiatives to assist local businesses

Ms. Saint Andre stated that the Town is looking to sponsor another job fair at the High School for the fall, previous job fairs were successful. There is still a need for employees among local businesses. Mr. Abdi asked if the Tri-County Vocational School is included. Ms. Saint Andre stated it would need to be done separately at the Tri-County, she will contact them. There was a suggestion to set up a QR code for a survey.

Ms. Saint Andre stated that the members have discussed trying to do more spotlight videos for local businesses that could be posted on the Town social media. Perhaps also businesses that might be interested in the Holiday promotion, such as the 12 Days of Medway that was done last year. Businesses can be suggested by members, through personal contacts, or other ways. Mr. Schultz suggested using Friends of Medway.

Recruiting New Committee Members

Mr. Abdi welcomed Ms. Rochford as liaison from the Cultural Council and stated he was sure she would be a great asset to the EDC. It was explained that the Committee is looking for 2 new members.

Reports

Master Plan update – Cassandra McKenzie

Since Ms. McKenzie was not present, Ms. Saint Andre provided an update. The Master Plan is almost completed. Final day to submit comments was September 7th. A new draft should be done next week and will be posted on the Town website. The Master Plan Committee has its last meeting on October 4th, then the Master Plan goes to the Planning and Economic Development Board at its October 25th meeting for approval. It will also be presented at the November Town Meeting, but Town Meeting does not have approval authority.

Planning and Economic Development Board – Rich Di Iulio

Mr. Di Iulio stated that the PEDB approved the Volta charging stations in the Shaw's parking lot. There are two stations, which will come on one hour before Shaw's opens and close one hour after. Mr. Abdi asked if there was an issue with people not paying. Mr. Di Iulio stated that Volta just needed to go through the proper process. He also mentioned the PEDB is reviewing two marijuana facility applications, ComCann and Phytopia, both in the east industrial park, and odor is an issue. Ms. Rochford stated that she lives nearby and there is an odor.

Mr. Di Iulio stated the PEDB is working on Wingate Farm, and the proposed location for Master's Touch on Main Street. The PEDB is also working with Milford Regional Hospital for a proposed facility next to Walgreens, they have started the decision process. The applicant needs to get a ground water protection permit, and comply with all town guidelines. PEDB uses Tetra Tech engineering to help determine whether businesses are in compliance and done properly. PEDB also reviewing ongoing changes at Salmon Healthcare (Willows), which is in the process of building stand-alone cottages. Mr. Abdi asked if this is separate from the assisted living, and Mr. Di Iulio answered yes.

Ms. Rochford asked if the Milford Regional Hospital facility needs to present to PEDB their projected or expected numbers, and any restrictions to deter the risk of the business failing. Mr. Di Iulio stated that this is a property that became available, Milford Regional is a private entity that tends to put up these facilities. Mr. McDermott added that the Town's various committees put things in place to steer development in the interest of the town. When this business comes in, there are a number of things that it has to conform to in order to be able to actually go in. Ms. Rochford asked about open space, and whether the town could just buy a field and turn it into a park. Mr. Di Iulio stated that the Town tries to do that, but unfortunately sometimes a parcel of land comes up and it already has buyers before the Town can buy it. Mr. McDermott pointed out that big parcels sometimes become available. For example, the Medway Block parcel – about 8 acres. The Town does make the attempt, then the Town Meeting votes on whether they want to buy it for \$4 million. Conservation commission has to approve the development as well, and there are water and sewer limits in place. But the town does attempt to make those purchases in preservation of the town.

Mr. Abdi noted that that field has been the first thing you see when you come into Medway, so sad to see it go.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2022

On a motion made by Mr. Di Iulio, seconded by Mr. McDermott, the Economic Development Committee voted unanimously to approve the August 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Any other business that may properly come before the Committee

Mr. Abdi mentioned that the Select Board had discussed a memo from KP Law regarding changes to the marijuana laws. If the Town were to vote to allow retail sales of marijuana, the Town would receive 3% of the sales. So he would like to discuss the pros and cons at the next meeting.

Mr. McDermott mentioned a new law requiring that in certain areas, the Town must have a certain density of population for a number of acres. Medway has to decide if we want to be compliant with this new law or not. If the Select Board does not push it, then it probably won't go before the Planning and Economic Board. If the Town is not compliant, we will not be eligible for certain State grants.

Mr. Abdi asked Ms. Rochford if she wanted to provide any information from the Cultural Council. She stated that the Council is looking into a program to decorate the utility boxes across Medway. The Cultural Council will be given 6 boxes to decorate, 6 others granted to the Historical Commission. The call for art was put out. Deadline is November 1, 2022. Then there's a decision process. Anyone can submit proposals!

Next Meeting – Scheduled for October 20, 2022

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. McDermott, seconded by Mr. Di Iulio, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn. Adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Submitted by
Stuthi Balaji
Recording Secretary

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