

Committee Members

Keith Peden, Chair
Zachary Knowlton, Vice Chair
Richard Di Iulio, Member
Mark Schultz, Member
Cassandra McKenzie, Member
Khalid Abdi, Member



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TOWN OF MEDWAY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present (virtually): Zach Knowlton, Chair, Keith Peden, Rich Di Iulio, Mark Schultz, Khalid Abdi, Vice Chair, Cassandra McKenzie

Members Absent:

Also Present (virtually):

Barbara J. Saint Andre, Director, Community and Economic Development
Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary
Jennifer Kendall, Cultural Council
Gail Hachenberg, Cultural Council

Chair Knowlton opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor's Orders imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, no in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted at this meeting. All persons participated remotely via Zoom. Information for participating via Zoom was posted at the end of the ZBA Agenda on the town website.

New Business

Cultural Council members to discuss its community asset identification initiative

Two members from the Cultural Council joined the meeting, Jennifer Kendall and Gail Hachenberg, to get input from the EDC on assets within the community. Ms. Kendall went through the Community Asset Inventory worksheet list that the Cultural Council is using, and EDC members provided input. One of the takeaways was Chair Knowlton's suggestion of something similar to the Graffiti wall in Boston being done at the Community Farm or one of the vacant Route 109 properties. It could attract customers and create foot traffic to businesses in that area. Outdoor activities such as artists in the business areas should be looked at due to concerns about indoor gatherings. One of the goals of the Cultural Council is to attract people to Medway and to provide a background of Medway to new and current patrons of the Town.

Assistance to business owners affected by COVID-19 emergency

EDC is working towards partnering with Medway Business Council in order to develop a plan to assist business within the community affected by COVID-19.

Outreach to owners of land available for commercial lease

Chair Knowlton reached out to a member of the Finance Committee, who stated at this time there were no initiatives to partner up on but welcomed any EDC members to the Finance Committee meetings to gather information that may be beneficial or interesting to the committee.

Proposed goal on creating a skills data base

Mr. Abi was provided a list from the Town Hall of the businesses in Medway. There are around 570. Mr. Di Iulio reviewed the business site that Mr. Peden had shared, and stated many of the businesses on there are no longer open. Mr. Schultz confirmed this is one of the biggest issues with this type of website, that they are not well maintained. Chair Knowlton agreed, if there is no economic incentive it will likely go without being updated. He mentioned an article describing a project completed by a team of Babson College students who spent the spring semester creating an economic scorecard and business inventory database for the town of Needham. The scorecard can be used to measure the town's economic performance. Mr. Schultz and Mr. Abdi were very interested in this matter and would like to research further to gather next steps.

Central Business zoning district – input on potential Zoning By-law changes

Ms. Saint Andre and Ms. Affleck-Childs, the Planning & Economic Development Coordinator, spoke with Ted Brovitz to have a discussion regarding the Central Business zoning district. Mr. Brovitz was the consultant who assisted with zoning for Oak Grove. They prepared a bulleted list of topics that potentially should be addressed. Ms. McKenzie thought the list covered it suitably and was interested in joining in on that conversation in the future. EDC members would like to review this item further to be able to provide further input. Ms. McKenzie stated it would be beneficial to see Village Street included in this review. Ms. Saint Andre agreed that Village Street should also be addressed. The committee would like to place this matter on the next agenda for further discussion.

Reports

Use of Economic Data

Chair Knowlton stated contacts are busy focusing on other things currently. People and businesses are struggling.

Planning and Economic Development Board

Mr. Di Iulio stated the Board had their first hybrid meeting with some members in Sanford Hall and some on Zoom. They had one hearing for Medway Mills, meeting went well. September 8th meeting is only Zoom. At this time, there is no update on Medway Place.

Minutes Approval July 16, 2020

On a motion made by Rich Di Iulio; seconded by Khalid Abdi, the Economic Development Committee voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the minutes of July 16, 2020.

Zach Knowlton	Aye
Keith Peden	Aye
Richard Di Iulio	Aye
Khalid Abdi	Aye
Cassandra McKenzie	Aye
Mark Schultz	Aye

Next meeting: September 17, 2020

On a motion made by Rich; seconded by Khalid, the Economic Development Committee voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn at 8:04 p.m.

Zach Knowlton	Aye
Keith Peden	Aye
Richard Di Iulio	Aye
Cassandra McKenzie	Aye
Mark Schultz	Aye
Khalid Abdi	Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

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