

**Town of Medway
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday December 13, 2017
76 Oakland Street
Senior Center
Medway, MA 02053**

PRESENT:

Keith Peden, Hugh McKinnon, Scott Habeeb, Anthony Varrchione and Rich Di Iulio.

Vice Chairman Peden opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Public Comments:

There were no comments from the general comments.

The Vice Chairman introduced the guest speaker who was Representative Jeffrey Roy who serves in the State of Representatives for the 10th Norfolk District. This district covers the Town of Franklin and precincts 2, 3 & 4 in Medway. Introductions were made by Economic Development Committee.

Representative Roy provided an overview on how the State has been working to increase manufacturing. A caucus group has been set up with a group of legislatures to look at this topic to see how the State can assist in to fostering a manufacturing user friendly community while expanding the tax base. There has been discussion about how to provide tax credits along with manufacturing training. This group meets on a regular basis. Representative Roy visits manufacturing facilities and the biggest obstacles seems to be the lack of a skilled work force. With the changing in how companies are manufacturing with the use of robots, the training needs to be in place. It is projected that there will be over 100,000 manufacturing jobs to fill in the next five years. Massachusetts is a great place for this innovation but the training needs to be in place. There has been meetings with some of the community colleges and vocational schools to have his type of program added to the curriculum based on the projected need.

The EDC is also trying to bring some manufacturing to the Town of Medway through the Urban Renewal Plan. Representative Roy explained that the Town of Franklin has put together a DVD and other materials to give to companies who want to bring a manufacturing company to Franklin. He is willing to assist the Town of Medway with this venture and welcomes them to visit his office. It was suggested to get a marketing person to represent the Town of Medway at the trade shows, conferences etc.

The bottle cap lots were mentioned and Representative Roy is aware of what the plan is for this area. Member Varrchione will email Mr. Roy the list of parcels in the bottle cap lots.

Suggestions on how to increase visibility for the Town of Medway:

- Meet with the Medway Business Counsel
- Encourage the “Shop” Medway Initiative

- Try to identify the manufacturer in the community and see if they are looking to expand
- Put together a calendar of events on businesses throughout town to visit
- Look to create another maker space for possible startup businesses to use
- Work to get Zoning in place so businesses can just come to the town without having to jump through zoning hoops

The Economic Development Committee thanked Representative Roy for his time and will keep in communication.

Medway Business Council:

Vice Chairman Peden attended the Medway Business Council meeting and shared the goals of the EDC with the hope to increase the commercial tax base by 5%. It was also discussed showcasing businesses with the use of videos. Another goal would be to have the up to date information on the website those interested in bringing their business to the town.

Minutes:

November 8, 2017:

On a motion made by Rich Di Iulio and seconded by Hugh McKinnon, the EDC accepted the Minutes from November 8, 2017.

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, January 10, 2017.

Adjourn:

On a motion made by Hugh McKinnon and seconded by Scott Habeeb, the EDC voted unanimously to adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Sutherland
Recording Secretary
Approved March 14, 2018