

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

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, October 21, 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, Cassandra McKenzie (Via Telephone)

Member Absent: Zach Knowlton, Chair, Liam McDermott

Also Present:

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

Vice Chair Abdi opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

New Business

Update on Cultural Council Initiatives

Ms. Kendall stated she's been busy at the Library. She also mentioned grant applications are open until November to apply for Cultural Council grants. Ms. Kendall discussed artist spotlight of the month and a fall photo contest going on. She also shared that the Council has been sponsoring speakers at the Library; there was a speaker on old-time baseball and there will be another talk next week about Shakespeare.

Assistance to business owners affected by COVID-19 emergency

Ms. Saint Andre stated the job fair at the High School was successful and the businesses had positive feedback. There are hopes of doing another in the spring (summer jobs & graduating seniors). Ms. Saint Andre stated finding staff is difficult right now for businesses.

Mr. Abdi questioned what other towns are doing. Ms. Saint Andre stated some towns are providing incentives for local businesses to use for bonuses for new hires if they stay at the business for a certain period.

Ms. Kendall questioned if the product shortages could be affecting businesses as well. Ms. Saint Andre stated she has not heard anything specific other than noticing construction costs rising. Mr. Schultz questioned the possibility of the Town subsidizing CDL licensing/training as there is a truck driver shortage.

Discussion on potential brew pub pop up event

Ms. McKenzie did some research on a few companies that could do a brew pub pop up event. Ms. McKenzie will have more information for the next meeting. She asked members to bring ideas of where it could be held. One suggestion she had was the Mill. Ms. Saint Andre mentioned needing to know how many square feet would be needed and the number of days it would be held.

Brockton had a pop up event with a local brewery. Medway Place, Medway Common, and Choate Park / Thayer House were among the suggested locations. Ms. McKenzie also mentioned the former McDonald's location at Medway Commons, since it is an underutilized vacant property.

There is plenty of parking and it's visible from the street. Ms. Kendall asked what time of year we should hold this. Ms. McKenzie hopes for spring. She also mentioned having it in a location where if they used food trucks, they would not be competing with the existing businesses. The idea is to create a spark for an area where people do not go. We will need to investigate the location, and speak with the owner of the property to get permission to utilize the location and utilize the space.

Mr. Schultz questioned if we would be doing any outside support for dining this winter. Ms. Saint Andre noted that most businesses were not interested in the winter months but if businesses were interested, the opportunity is there. A lot of businesses are open for indoor dining. Staffing is a big concern right now.

Reports

Master Plan Committee

Ms. McKenzie said the Master Plan Committee had the Open House on October 3rd. She said it was not as well attended as the one previously. The presentation is on cable and is likely accessible on the Town's website. They are trying to do more advertisement and outreach as they move onto the next phase with more focus groups. Phase 3 is in the timeline. A lot of information is on the website, including the results of the summer outreach. Ms. McKenzie suggested members check it out to continue to stay up to date and provide feedback.

Use of Economic Data

No updates since last meeting.

Planning and Economic Development Board

Mr. Di Iulio provided latest updates from last PEDB meeting. He stated the Board continues to work on three projects in the permitting process, Medway Place, Rocky's Hardware, and Phytopia. Proposed new environmental standards were completed to present to Town Meeting on November 15th. Mr. Di Iulio stated a lot of work on the environmental standards was completed by the consultants. The PEDB has also put forth a Town Meeting article to impose a temporary moratorium on battery energy storage facilities. There is going to be a hearing on the articles for the town meeting at the next PEDB meeting on October 26th and also at the meeting of November 2nd.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2021

On a motion made by Mr. Abdi; seconded by Mr. Di Iulio, the Economic Development Committee voted unanimously 4-0-1 (Ms. Kendall abstained as she was not at the 9/23/21 meeting) to approve the meeting minutes from September 23, 2021.

Ms. Saint Andre mentioned the Metropolitan Area Planning Council is putting together the MetroCommon 2050 plan. She stated it is for the entire MAPC Region. It is a 20-year plan and it is available on the MAPC website. Vision and goals are shared and there are about 15 for the different aspects of the plan. The plan covers many areas and there is a lot about economic

development and cultural initiatives that the committee members could find interesting or helpful.

Next Meeting: November 18, 2021

On a motion made by Mr. Abdi; seconded by Ms. McKenzie, the Economic Development Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

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