

Committee Members

Liam McDermott, Chair
Mark Schultz, Vice-Chair
Larry Presswood, Member
Jessica Chabot, Member
Patrick Herlihy, Member
Kristen Salerna, Member



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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Medway Town Hall, Sanford Hall
155 Village Street, Medway

Members Present: Liam McDermott, Mark Schultz, Vice-Chair, Larry Presswood, Kristen Salerna, Patrick Herlihy

Members Absent: Jessica Chabot

Also Present:

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

Chair McDermott opened the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

1. New Business

Initiatives to Assist Local Businesses

Updates on EDC initiatives – Ms. Saint Andre gave a brief update: the schools have responded to an inquiry for holding another job fair; we are working on a potential job board; a draft mission statement was distributed to members prior to the meeting; Jeremy Thompson will update the members on available commercial land and buildings at the next meeting; members are encouraged to reach out to local businesses that may be interested in being featured in a business spotlight video. It was noted that the Medway Business Council also had done some of these in the past. The members discussed the proposed business survey. Mr. Schultz asked if we could track which businesses respond. Other members felt that businesses would be more likely to respond if the survey is anonymous. It was agreed to hand out the surveys at the Medway Pride event, also circulate through social media and the Medway Business Council. Ms. Salera is chairing Medway Pride this year, she noted that the hours have been shortened to 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Discuss Town Tax Rate and Growth – Ms. Saint Andre showed a shortened version of the presentation that the Board of Assessors made to the Select Board last November for the annual tax classification hearing. It was noted that Medway has always had a unified tax rate for residential and commercial. The Assessors' slides showed that the percentage of commercial, industrial, and personal property values to the total taxable value in Town has been going down. Mr. Presswood noted that commercial real estate values have not been increasing as much in value due to the effects of COVID related work from home and other factors. Ms. Saint Andre pointed out the PowerPoint slides showing that the tax rate is going down, but the average tax bill is going up due to increased

residential tax values. Medway is in the middle of the area towns as far as average tax bill for single family homes.

Discuss potential Town Meeting articles – The members did not have any potential articles for this Town Meeting. Jessica Chabot, the Planning and Economic Development Board representative, was not present, it was agreed that further discussion should be held when she is present. There was a brief discussion of the MBTA zoning proposed amendments that will be on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. The members expressed concern with respect to the traffic back-ups on Route 109, particularly near the Shaw's Plaza, and the effect this could have on local businesses. Mr. Herlihy mentioned that the light at Walgreens should be flashing yellow for the left-hand turn, which would help alleviate the back-up there. It was noted that the school department will be changing its school bus policy, which could add even more traffic.

Discuss relevant Master Plan initiatives – Mr. Thompson has prepared a Master Plan tracking document that will be discussed at the next meeting.

Committee member recruitment – A local commercial real estate broker has expressed some interest in seeking appointment to the committee, Chair McDermott will pursue this.

2. Reports

Planning and Economic Development Board – Ms. Chabot was not present, no report made.

3. Approval of minutes

On a motion made by Kristen Salerna, seconded by Larry Presswood, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes from January 18, 2024.

5. Next meeting scheduled for March 21, 2024

6. Adjournment

On a motion made by Kristen Salerna, seconded by Patrick Herlihy, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Barbara J. Saint Andre
Director, Community and Economic Development

List of Documents Reviewed at this Meeting

1. PowerPoint – Assessors' presentation to Select Board (abbreviated version)
2. Proposed Business Survey