

NOV 21 2008

## Minutes

### Town of Acton Economic Development Committee (EDC) Acton Town Hall, Room 204 10-23-2008

#### Attendance:

EDC members: Doug Tindal, Nick Francis, Terra Friedrichs, Bill Lawrence, Chris Pappas, Ann Chang, Bruce Reichlen

Staff: Roland Bartl (Planning Director), Kristin Alexander (Assistant Planner)

Guests: Herman Kabakoff (FinCom), Dick Calandrella (Sidewalk and Outreach), Charlie Kadlec, Jonathan Avery (EDIC), Leigh Davis Honn (Planning Board), Lawrence Powers (Outreach), Lauren Rosenzweig (BoS), Pranati Kuchimanchi (ABRHS student), Ray Yacouby (Planning Board), John Petersen (School Committee)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.

#### **I. Introduction**

Mr. Tindal welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting – to assist the EDC in developing priorities for the upcoming year. Meeting attendees introduced themselves. Ms. Rosenzweig gave a brief history of the economic development goals in the 1990 Acton Master Plan and 1998 Acton Master Plan Update. Mr. Avery explained the Economic Development Industrial Corporation (EDIC).

#### **II. Brainstorming Session**

Mr. Tindal opened the discussion to anyone in attendance who wanted to comment on economic development issues or priorities. Meeting attendees shared their economic development observations, experiences, and concerns in Acton. Afterwards, attendees identified specific issues or priorities the EDC should address this coming year. Mr. Bartl and Ms. Alexander recorded the issues/priorities on notepads in front of meeting attendees. See the notepad comments in the attached document: "*Economic Development Committee (EDC) Brainstorming Session Notes – 10-23-08.*"

Mr. Tindal thanked everyone for attending and participating in the brainstorming session.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

## **Economic Development Committee (EDC) Brainstorming Session Notes – 10-23-08**

### **Possible Issues for the EDC to Address in 2008-2009\***

- Tourism
- Communication
- Tend to our businesses
- Streamlining permitting
- Ombudsman
- Identify demographics (3 tier - primary, secondary, tertiary)
  
- Facilitation (new businesses)
- Selling Acton to businesses
- Selling businesses to Acton
- Get School's perspective
- Explain the benefits of economic development
  
- Do we know who we are?
- Who are the businesses?
- What do the businesses think we/they need?
- Where are we – where do we fit in the big market / picture?
- Demographic / market inventory what we already have / know.
- Demographic / market inventory what we don't have / don't know, that is accessible.
  
- Invite people to speak to the group about the evolution of retail
  
- Village – Kelley's Corner design
- Promote Acton as destination
- Identify strengths
- Work on the niches / smaller projects and plans – prove that something can be done
  
- Education
- Information
- Define / develop village characters / identity
  
- What are the trends and dynamics that define and shape the future?
- What can be done to sustain small businesses?

*\* NOTE: The issues are not listed in any order. The issues are only grouped by the note pad sheet they were recorded on.*