



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 15, 2012, 7:30 PM, Room 204 – Acton Town Hall

Present: Dick Calandrella/Full Member, Ann Chang/At Large Member, Derrick Chin/Planning Board Rep, David Clough/Selectman, David Didriksen/Member at Large, Nancy Dinkel/Chamber Rep., Jeoff Hall/Full Member, Harry Mink/Full Member/Clerk and Chris Pappas/Chamber Rep. **Absent:** Doug Tindal/FinCom Rep & Acting FinCom Chairman

Quorum: Yes

EDC Meeting Called to Order: 7:34 PM by Nancy D. who chaired the meeting

1. **Public Participation** – None
2. **Approval of Minutes of 2/16** –the Minutes were approved as amended. **Action Item:** Harry M. to forward the aforementioned Amended, Approved EDC Minutes to clerk@acton-ma.gov
3. **MAPC focus on Transportation** – Derrick C. attended on behalf of the EDC and said that several others from Acton were also in attendance including Mike Gowing and Franny Osman. The meeting was well run, with 3 speakers with funding as the paramount issue facing transportation. (see attached report: **MAPC_SYMPOSIUM_03132012[1]**) Harry M. was asked to give a report on the MEDC Annual Meeting he'd attended on behalf of the EDC and he reported: Steve Grossman/State Treasurer talked about a program of providing \$5M to Community Banks at competitive rates for small business loans and to date 40 of 160 have been funded and have done over 900 loans (list on his Website). Also four speakers representing successful, growing manufacturers in the Merrimack Valley (Solectria Renewables, New Balance, Southwick Clothing and General Mills/Yoplait) gave presentations with the net message for keys to their success were: 1) Partnership with MEDC 2) Workforce availability 3) Local Supply Chain. (see attached hand written notes: **MEDC-Annual-Mtg_03-09-12-HAM-Notes**) David C. mentioned a \$185K grant was approved provided ridership increases (costs ~\$30 per rider who are charged ~\$2 to \$4) so that the degree of public fund subsidies drop to a more sustainable level which could be achieved by making the current 4 separate local systems more efficient by combining and routing techniques. **Action Item:** Nancy D. to invite Franny Osman to a future EDC Meeting. David C. also mentioned an ethanol freight plan letter from Chelsea for moving a 60-car train twice a week through Acton by rail and the safety issues associated. Initial feedback was: Safety needs of Acton must be fully funded (special equipment, training, etc.) What economic benefit was there for Acton?
4. **WR Grace land** –Nancy D. asked for comments on the WR Grace properties. David C. said that there was a Solar Panel project on the Concord Town Warrant for their portion of the property. Ann C. requested that the Acton Selectmen write a letter to Concord requesting a right of way or easement to the Acton portion of the property since there wasn't an acceptable alternative today. Jeoff H. suggested Acton piggy-back on the Concord Project for the Solar Panels, but David C. warned that whoever owns the contaminated property holds the associated liability of an EPA designated toxic site.
5. **Review of the Town Warrant for ATM** – Nancy D. asked for comments and Dick C. said there was included, amended town sign Bylaws: 1) adding LED whenever Neon was mentioned 2) in lieu of EDC recommended "up to \$300/day" discretion the Planning Board inserted that it would issue a \$50 fine for the first seven days, then \$300/day fines would commence 3) the response time was amended to 45-days from 60-day and 4) political signs were reduced in size from 6 sq. ft. to 4 sq. ft. Nancy D. suggested that if a person in violation of signs Bylaws and started to actively contact and work with the Planning Department, the 7-day clock would probably be put on hold while things were worked out. The drive-up window on a pharmacy was taken out



of the Warrant. 2020 will have an hour to present and hold a Q&A session and they will feature a pedestrian friendly Kelley's Corner. Comments were that without ownership of the land or financing to acquire same, this was a low probability projection by 2020. Nancy D. reported that she held a Kelly's Corner Merchant meeting that four people attended.

6. Review Sign Bylaws – skipped due to time.
7. Update on Electronic Business Directory – skipped due to time. **Action Item:** **Jeoff H.** to attempt to contact John Murray to respond to his question about the Nielson data.
8. Update on Marketing Survey – skipped due to time.
9. Upcoming Scheduled Meetings (2012) – 7:30 PM in Room 204, Acton Town Hall: 4-4, 12, 4-19-12, 5-3-12, 5-17-12 and 6-21-12 at the Acton Town Hall.

Adjourn – The EDC Meeting was adjourned at/around 9:12 PM.

Next Regular EDC Meeting (7:30 PM, April 4, 2012 in Room 204 Acton Town Hall)

Minutes respectfully submitted by: *Harry A. Mink*, Clerk of EDC