



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 3, 2012, 7:30 PM, Room 204 – Acton Town Hall

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

Quorum: Yes

EDC Meeting Called to Order: 7:35 PM by Nancy D. who chaired the meeting

1. **Public Participation** – None
2. **Approval of Minutes of 4/19** –the Minutes were approved as submitted. **Action Item:** Harry M. to forward the aforementioned Amended, Approved EDC Minutes to clerk@acton-ma.gov
3. **Transportation Issues** – Franny Osman/Chairman of the Transportation Advisory Committee gave an hour long PowerPoint presentation on the history and current status of 4 separate ride services serving Acton and the adjacent communities. Regarding the impact on Acton and EDC's mission of making our Town more business friendly, Franny spoke to the "last mile" problem.-i.e. the train gets one to the Acton station, but how does one (employees, customers, etc.) get to/from their destination Examples given were: a) how do visitors get around other than rental or personal cars b) Clock Tower Place in Maynard c) IBM in Littleton d) Cisco in Boxborough e) Emerson Hospital in Concord f) Nagog Park in Acton g) Others: Stratus, Red Hat, Foundation, Sea Change, etc. Franny also mentioned there was also transportation issue interest of local business groups such as the Lions Club, Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce. It was observed by David C. that the major employers in town, the Schools (large group of teachers commuting from Cambridge) and Haartz could benefit with regular service between the train station and their places of business. Doug T. recommended that getting businesses directly involved would make sense due to the direct economic impact on their respective operations and they should be willing to support the idea of public transport when they can see a positive impact on their bottom line. Franny observed that Acton currently is the area leader in trying to address the "last mile" problem. Franny observed that Acton currently has 4 different demand services individually dispatched and are embarking on a study of fixed routes while Lexington has fixed routes and is investigating demand service. It was remarked by David C. that something has to be done to reduce the current inefficiencies where the cost per rider who pays roughly \$4 is actually in the high \$30 range. David D. suggested that the Transportation Advisory Committee focus on 1 or 2 (Schools, Haartz, etc), make them successful, then expand the service. Nancy D. said that the next best step would be for EDC to assist the Transportation Advisory Committee when they approach major employers and businesses in the community.
4. **Review Ease-of-Doing Business** – Derrick C., prior to tonight's meeting, had distributed edited versions of the Planning Department's presentation to West Acton businesses to be packaged with his draft table of contents to the Acton Sign Laws. There was feedback that the Planning Department's presentation was too confusing without being presented, but that elements of it could be extracted into a document that needs to stand on its own. Derrick further reported that he'd found two traffic studies regarding Kelley's Corner and had also sent to the EDC via E-mail ahead of tonight's meeting: a) Kelley's Corner Business District Circulation Plan dated Feb. 28, 1997 and b) Route 27 (Main Street) Corridor Study dated Aug. 1, 2001. Derrick made copies of Table E-1 Main Street (Route 27) Recommended Improvement Plan which he circulated at tonight's meeting. **Action Item:** Derrick C. to develop a process for obtaining a sign by a business.



5. Donation Boxes – Nancy D. offered to reschedule this topic at the next meeting due to the late hour
6. Updates on Electronic Business Directory - Nancy D. offered to reschedule this topic at the next meeting due to the late hour and the fact that Geoff H. was unable to make this meeting.
7. Updates on Marketing Survey/Process - Nancy D. offered to reschedule this topic at the next meeting due to the late hour

Summary of Additional Action Item to Support Several of the Above Topics/Discussions - **Action Item.** Nancy D. to invite Vinney Catone and Rich Maddox to a future EDC Meeting to share their vision for the development of Kelley's Corner.

8. Upcoming Scheduled Meetings (2012) –May 17, June 7, June 21, July 5, July 19, Aug 2, Aug 16, Sept 6, Sept 20, Oct 4, Oct 18, Nov 1, Nov 15, Dec 6 and Dec 20.

Adjourn – The EDC Meeting was adjourned at/around 9:47 PM.

Next Regular EDC Meeting (7:30 PM, May 17, 2012 in Room 204 Acton Town Hall)

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