

## Town of Natick Economic Development Committee

**Meeting Minutes:** July 28, 2009

**In Attendance:** Joshua Ostroff, Patrick Reffett, Joseph Kiggen, Ben Greenberg, David Shamoian, Paul Joseph

- Meeting called to order at 2:08 p.m. by Paul Joseph, Chairman
  
- 1. Introduction to Massachusetts Office of Business Development from Annamarie Kersten, Regional Director, Greater Boston and Ted Welte, Chamber.
  - a. Introductions around the table.
  - b. Annamarie lead the EDC through a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled Brockton\_07\_23\_09.ppt.
  - c. Examples that came up during the meeting:
  - d. Randolph EDC used flyers and unpaid state interns to get local businesses to complete a survey on Survey Monkey. The goal was to understand from the business community what was good/bad about doing business in Randolph.
  - e. Norwood added economic development activities to the planning director's role.
  - f. Jay Ash in Chelsea, City Mgr called on companies to get a hotel interested in expanding into Chelsea. One example of a city reaching out for what it needed.
  - g. Mass Econ sends out blasts with info on what types of sites companies are looking for – we should get those blasts.
    1. Mass Econ DB has a depository for the 43D sites.
  - h. Somerville uses it to keep tabs on their marketable properties. Somerville is one of the best at economic development. They also have a \$3M budget for things like signage improvement, storefront improvement, the inventory work etc. HUD gives community development block grants based on certain populations.
  - i. **ACTION** – need to get a list of our sites with the owning broker as the contact. We are just the information provider.
  - j. **ACTION** – Consider listing these programs on our web site for businesses.
  - k. [www.mass.gov/bizteam](http://www.mass.gov/bizteam) has most of this info.
  - l. Westboro has an EDC. They are aggressive. Constantly talking to legislators, businesses and the planning department.
  
- 2. A representative from the Assessors Office joined the meeting to help the EDC understand what help they could be in determining developable sites in the town. She explained that they assesses property for its use but not if it's on the market. They don't have an inventory of available properties. They can provide by class code, land that is potentially developable or undevelopable and the owner. They could query the database for certain sized parcels and put us in touch with the owners.

3. General discussion on working with brokers.
4. Ben Greenberg came up with questions for brokers:
  - a. Property address
  - b. Use/Zone type
  - c. Size
  - d. Parking
  - e. Building Size
  - f. Primary Access
  - g. Buy or lease
5. Web page update – Josh putting together a basic page with names, charter etc.
  - a. Josh will bring the concept of a broader web site to a next meeting – something more comprehensive. A portal for a business to get started in Natick.
  - b. The basic page should be up on the town’s web site shortly.
6. Josh Ostroff offered work plan ideas:
  - a. Info collection from various people
  - b. Develop preliminary communications
  - c. Pursue/explore preliminary initiatives, tax, infrastructure, broader communications
  - d. Consider a presentation to town meeting, update from committee, warrant article to hear what we are doing
  - e. Also meet with BoS, Planning Board to brief them on our role within the town and current/future activities
  - f. At next selectman’s meeting put the warrant article on for Fall Town Meeting
7. **Action:** Ben to call brokers by next meeting.
8. **Action:** Paul to put skeleton Work Plan together by next meeting.
9. Future Meetings
  - a. Next Meeting on 8/20/09
- **Motion** to adjourn by Ben Greenberg. **Seconded** by David Shamoian. **Voted: Passed 5-0-0.**
  - b. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.