



TOWN OF TEWKSBURY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
999 Whipple Road
Tewksbury, MA 01876

Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2013

The meeting was called to order by David Plunkett, Chairman, at 5:02 p.m. at the Town Hall Auditorium. Present at the meeting were Richard Montuori (late arrival), Steve Sadwick, David Gay, and David McGinness.

Also present was Nancy Reed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2013

MOTION: Mr. Gay made the motion to approve the April 24, 2013 meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Sadwick and the motion carried 4-0.

1) Peter Milano – Mass. Office of Business Development (MOBD)

Present was Peter Milano, Senior Regional Director from the Massachusetts Office of Business Development. Mr. Milano explained that they are the only economic development agency that works for the State and meets and interacts with businesses to either site or expand in Massachusetts. MOBD offers several different programs including the economic development incentive program; which is real estate tax relief and potential investment tax credit. Mr. Milano noted that the town has done a good job indicating that they are business friendly and willing to assist. Mr. Milano commended the town on its' permitting structure and quick process. Discussion took place on Thermo Fisher and how quickly they were able to move in.

Mr. Milano explained that there are also infrastructure programs that they work with; which is very competitive as there is a limited amount of money available. Mr. Milano asked if the town currently has any applications pending and Mr. Sadwick noted that there are not.

Some of the other programs offered by MOBD:

- Massachusetts Life Science Center – Mr. Milano noted that the town has good infrastructure and water is abundant and he feels Tewksbury would be a good fit for this.
- Massachusetts Clean Energy Center - Met with Mr. Montuori, Mr. Sadwick and Mr. Milano and it was unsuccessful. Mr. Sadwick noted that they have not been successful anywhere and have not yet left Wyoming.

Mr. Montuori arrived.

- Specific labor related incentives - In the past, the Committee sponsored an event in which different State agencies came to speak; including Workforce Training and Mass. Development; who can now operate fully in Tewksbury as it is an economic target area. Mr. Milano does not currently have any projects for this.

Mr. Milano explained that part of Mass Developments Charter is that they can only work in economic target areas. MOBD are decreasing many of the regulations that businesses have had to operate within the past. There is a new staff member, Tim Wilkerson, who is continually trying to identify redundant business regulations as well as regulations that do not work. Approximately 200 have been eliminated to date.

Mr. Milano asked how he can help the Committee. Mr. Gay explained that the town would like to bring in another larger company like Thermo Fisher and asked how this can be done. Mr. Milano explained that the town should have an inventory ready and be aware of the real estate they have to offer. Mr. Milano noted that many other communities have done polling of their businesses to see how the town can help them. Mr. Sadwick noted that this is something the Committee is currently working on. Mr. Milano offered to assist the Committee with the polling as this is something he has worked on it in the past with other communities.

Discussion took place on what type of growth the Committee would like to see in the future. Mr. Gay feels that many residents would like to see more commercial development while keeping the open space and has heard many residents ask why the all the businesses go to Wilmington but not Tewksbury. Mr. Milano suggested soliciting some of the Kendall Square smaller life science companies as there are many.

Mrs. Reed suggested updating the “red book” that was created a couple years ago to help market the town to include Thermo Fisher and the new high school. Mr. Milano noted that providing him with the brochures would not really be beneficial, because if a business comes to him he is going to contact Mr. Sadwick and request he represent the town. Mr. Milano suggested contacting Dave Tibbetts of the Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council (MVEDC); which is the State’s designated regional economic development organization, to see if he is able to distribute the brochure in his email distribution sent out weekly to thousands of people.

2) Draft Business Owner Survey

Mr. Montuori provided copies of the draft survey. Discussion took place on waiting for the example from Mr. Milano to ensure the survey encompasses everything. Mr. Montuori explained that the plan is to send out a post card to the businesses directing them to go to the town's website to complete the survey. Mr. McGinness suggested also doing follow up visits. Discussion took place on involving the high school students to do the follow up visits as well as utilizing the copy center at the high school for the postcards. Mr. Montuori suggested the members review the survey and provide their feedback to him within the next couple of weeks.

MOTION: Mr. Gay made the motion to authorize the utilization of the high school seniors and/or DECA students for the copying and distribution of the survey; seconded by Mr. McGinness and the motion carried

3) Outreach Activities

Discussion took place on updating the "red book". Mr. Sadwick will look to see what he has electronically and to see if it can be modified to update it to include Thermo Fisher, the completion of the new high school, etc.

4) Status of Corridor Studies

a. Rt. 38 Corridor Study

Mr. Sadwick noted that the figures are done for the Rt. 38 study and the draft is expected to be received soon.

b. Rt. 133 Corridor Study

No update was provided.

c. Woburn Street Study

Mr. Sadwick noted that he has gone back and forth with NMCOG on the Woburn Street study and has located the necessary maps and will be providing them to the Planning Board. The maps show that there are some small retail uses on Woburn Street as well as the movement of the adult entertainment district. Discussion took place on the adult entertainment district being a requirement. Mr. Sadwick noted that these areas have carefully been chosen to be kept away from schools, residential areas, etc.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Mr. Sadwick noted that he received an email regarding a showing at Riverview on Woburn Street tomorrow from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Gay made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Montuori and the motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: _____

Date