

MINUTES
August 7, 2007
West Boylston
TOWN WIDE PLANNING COMMITTEE

TWPC members present: Mr Gaumond, Mr Greenough, Ms Dunn, Ms Pare
Mr Evans, Dr Tashjian, Mr Fishbein, and Ms Harris.

TWPC members absent: Mr Kevin McCormick, Mr. Baker, Ms Feland and
Ms Meola.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by the Chairman, Mr Gaumond.

The minutes of the May 1, 2007 and the April 10, 2007 meetings were approved as written.

Chairman Gaumond welcomed Ms Pare as the Planning Board representative, replacing Ms Wellington.

Also present: Selectman John DiPietro

The Committee met with John Hadley, Andrew Feland, and Christopher Rucho, members of the Economic Development Committee, to receive their progress report on their Master Plan Goals and Objectives. The full Committee consists of the following members.

Economic Development Committee:

David Eckhardt
Andrew Feland
Christopher Rucho
Barbara Wyatt
John Hadley
Maryann Schelin
Robert Matthews
Larry Salate, ex officio Planning Bd. member

The Economic Development Committee members reported they have been recently organized and are learning their new duties. However they are enthusiastically beginning to study the possibilities for improving economic health of the town. One of the goals in the Master Plan was for them to recommend whether their Task Force should be a Task Force or a Commission with added responsibilities and duties. They felt they will have a better understanding of this question as they get further along in their work.

Other Master Plan goals that were reviewed included:

Small business development. They reported the recent permitting changes made by the Building Inspector's office and other new measures taken by the Town officials have made permitting more customer friendly. They are also working on a web page to link with the Town's page and on an informational flyer to help attract new business.

I-190 rezoning from Single Family housing to Business. The Planning Board has a Public

Hearing scheduled in September and intends to bring it to Town Meeting in October if all goes well. The Task Force approves of this change and the TWPC, after discussion, voted to recommend approval as well.

They have been talking to the Wachusett Chamber of Commerce about getting more involved in regional activities.

They are looking at Economic Target Areas and Marketing programs.

Also Tourism, Special Events, the Town's work force, Technical assistance, and Economic Alliances were discussed.

A roundtable discussion on economic development was held with members from both Committees joining in.

Chapter 61 lands.

The Selectboard has approved a policy for dealing with Chapter 61 lands that might be removed from that tax reduction program.

The Selectboard and the Town Administrator will report to the TWPC at our meeting in September. They are planning to make this an annual report on the progress of the Master Plan goals.

Next meeting will be on September 4, 2007

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Charles Greenough, Clerk