



# Town of Westminister

MASSACHUSETTS 01473

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Phone: (978) 874-7414

## Economic Development Committee – Meeting Minutes for August 7, 2013

Present: Richelle Brown, John Fairbanks, and Bud Taylor. Staff: Stephen Wallace, Town Planner.  
Special Guest: John Harden, Economic Development Specialist with the North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation (NCMDC). Also in attendance were Patty Brouillet, Dan Rouleau, Dean Johnson and an unidentified woman.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

Motion to approve previous meeting minutes, AIF

The EDC's first order of business was hearing from Dean Johnson regarding his plans to let Patty Brouillet and Dan Roleau use a structure on his property at 70 Knower Road for a craft shop. There is a former residential structure on the property that has sat vacant since the 1950s. Patty and Dan plan to fix up the house and use it as a place to sell handmade crafts. In order to do this, Mr. Johnson must obtain a Use Variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals. The house is listed in the book "Homestead History of Westminister" and is also listed in the "Freedom's Way" inventory, as a "Heritage Site...of historical significance". After some discussion, the EDC voted unanimously 3-0 to support the Use Variance Application and directed the Town Planner to draft a letter of support.

Next up was special guest John Harden from the NCMDC. Mr. Harden talked about what his organization does and the clients they serve. From there, Mr. Hardin explained how an anonymous client had expressed interest in making use of the old Chem Design property off of Development Road on Westminister's boundary with Fitchburg. One of the factors that discouraged this potential buyer was the fact that this land is zoned residential and not industrial. The Town Planner stated that he recently received the support of the Board of Selectmen to rezone the Chem Design property east of Development Road from residential to industrial so that there would be one less hurdle for the next potential buyer of this site. After some discussion, the EDC members voted unanimously 3-0 to support the Town Planner's initiative to rezone this property.

Next, the EDC discussed the promotional map idea. The Town Planner has obtained a price quote from one printing company in Leominster and is awaiting price quotes from two others. The Planner hopes to have three price quotes to share with the EDC at its September meeting. It was agreed that the printing of the brochure is unlikely to occur until the 2015 fiscal year.

The next item on the agenda was finalizing the survey to send out to all local business owners. The EDC members agreed to a few minor changes before unanimously voting to approve the two-page survey. The Town Planner will send out the survey before the end of August.

The last order of business was discussing the need to recruit some new members.

The EDC will meet again next on Wednesday September 4, 2013, at 7:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.