



Town of Westminster

MASSACHUSETTS 01473
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
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Economic Development Committee (EDC) – Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2015

Members Present: Wayne Walker, Richelle Brown, Ralph LeBlanc, and Joe Serio.

Others Present: Steve Wallace, Town Planner.

Members Absent: Scott Aubuchon and Jeff Crowley.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Serio.

The meeting began with reviewing the minutes from the January 7th EDC meeting. The members present at the January meeting pointed out two minor corrections. With the corrections made, Richelle made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Joe Serio. The Committee voted to approve said minutes.

The Committee briefly discussed the Historical Commission's proposed demolition delay bylaw, but as there were no Commission members there to present the bylaw, no decision was made to support or not support the proposed bylaw.

The EDC moved onto discussing the promotional brochure/map with David Bryant from Talon Graphics out of Leominster. David showed us the second edition of the map/brochure. The Committee discussed such items as the photos for the front cover, the credits, whether or not to depict church locations and ATM locations, and missing phone numbers for two of the listed businesses. All agreed that we are much closer to a finished product than when we met in January. David received enough guidance to proceed with the third (and hopefully final) edition and he will return at our next EDC meeting to review the map with us once again. If we can finalize the brochure/map at our April meeting, there is a possibility of the final product being ready in time for the May Town Meeting.

The Committee then reviewed the new parking standards proposed by the Planning Board. The Town Planner explained that having several commercial projects go through the site plan review process, several flaws were identified in the Zoning Bylaw's parking standards: limited parking options for non-residential development, and inconsistent protections for residential abutters. The Planner and Planning Board believe the new parking standards will allow for more flexibility for non-residential developments in terms of parking, and abutters to parking areas for new non-residential developments will be sufficiently protected.

Chairman Serio then gave an update on the planning for the Cracker Festival to be held in October.

EDC Member Richelle Brown announced that she would be resigning from the EDC due to other commitments. We are now down to five members.

The EDC then discussed economic development options for a property located off Route 140 heading towards Wachusett Mountain, namely a farm to table restaurant. EDC member Ralph LeBlanc will follow up on this matter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM. The next meeting of the EDC will be Wednesday night, April 1st, 2015 at 7:00 PM in Room 112.