

**Town of Dudley  
Massachusetts  
Economic Development Committee  
Dudley Municipal Complex  
71 West Main Street  
Dudley, MA 01571**

John Briare, Chairman  
Marcia Wagner, Secretary  
Todd Donohoe, Treasurer

Barbara Zurawski, Vice Chairman  
Ellen Laprise, Clerk  
Jo-Ann Szymczak, Member

**Economic Development Committee  
October 19, 2016 Minutes**

**Present:** John Briare, Ellen Laprise, Marcia Wagner, Jo-Ann Szymczak

**Guests:** Greg Balukonis, Town Administrator

Meeting was opened at 9:03 by Chairman, John Briare with Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of 6-23-2016 approved by Ellen Laprise, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marcia Wagner

Minutes of 8-18-2016 approved by JoAnn Szymczak, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ellen Laprise

Minutes of 9-22-2016 approved by JoAnn Szyczak, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ellen Laprise

**Review of town website update:** John Briare conducted training for various town departments that was well attended and site is now being used by all departments. The new website has saved 82 percent revenue savings over previous website. The US Govt is increasing the rate for the DudleyMA.gov domain name from \$125 per year to \$400 per year starting 1/1/2017. In the private sector, that same domain registration services are available for \$9.99 per year. US Govt will not allow .govs to be registered thru private sector. However, the town will have to continue to use MA.Gov. email address to retail passed records in avoiding transitional costs. The top webpage being used is the assessor's office. It was learned during the training sessions that there was a surge of website attacks from outside countries which have been successfully blocked. Blocks will be released with caution as needed, specifically Germany because of a local business.

Todd Donohoe arrived at meeting 9:10

**Old Business:** Todd informed the committee that Barbara Zurawski has been in touch with Dennis Criag who has received all the material needed for the brochure and he will be submitting a draft for the next DEDC meeting.

**New Business:** Jo-Ann addressed the housing market in Dudley indicating that property values are good and the market is currently extremely strong. She highlighted two problems sellers encounter, the first being that they have not obtained the proper building permits or have not had projects inspected after

they have been completed. The second being environmental issues such as mold, well testing and radon remediation. Todd suggested that it might be of value for the Building Department to post projects needing a permit on our website for property owner's reference.

In the DEDC's efforts to address economic development John Briare suggested that the committee reach out to Nichols College for a joint advisory board. As the college continues to grow it would be advantage that the college's plans and town plans are in line. All members agreed, John will make the contact.

Marcia Wagner presented a hard copy of the 2010 Dudley Community Development Committee report for reference of previous economic development efforts . She also mentioned the importance of having a town sign and even a banner to announce dates of important town meetings. Banners aren't just informative but also emit a sense of pride and town fellowship. Greg Balukonis advised that an article is on the town warrant for a vote to fund an electronic sign for the town hall.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Motion made at 9:45 by Jo-Ann Szymczak, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ellen Laprise

Next meeting November 17, 2016