

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
December 15, 2016 Minutes

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

Guests: Greg Balukonis, Town Administrator; Don Johnson, Town Planner and Peter Fox, Selectman

Meeting was opened at 9:02 by Chairman, John Briare with Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of 11/17/2016 approved by Marcia Wagner, 2nd Ellen Laprise

Old Business: John Briare addressed the revisions to the Real Estate Partnership proposal which will appear in the town brochure. The first change requires a minimum annual fee of \$500 for the sponsor and the second change requires that the real estate partner provide a creative or unique proposal worthy of consideration. These changes are being forwarded to the Town Administrator for approval prior to advertising.

A draft of the brochure was available for the Board's review. Verbiage and photographs were found to be impressive. Members of the Board would like to see the map be labeled with points of interest and available properties.

New Business: A motion was made to appoint John Briare as member and Ellen Laprise as supporting member of the Town's new committee to review and make recommendations regarding the Marijuana Law and its effects on the town. The motion was made by Marcia Wagner and second by Todd Donohoe. Vote was unanimous. The Committee was presented to the EDC as a source to weigh whether the town will elect to embrace, tolerate, resist or oppose the Law. John stated that he sees the EDC's roll as devil's advocate in reviewing the ramifications of a positive utilization of the law.

Town Administrator, Greg Balikonous once again expressed his concerns of Dudley's identity as a border town. Selectman Peter Fox expressed his concern of the Law having no regulations, no guidelines for law enforcement and most of all, edible marijuana getting in the hands of children. Marcia Wagner mentioned that some towns are electing to place a moratorium on making a decision for their communities. Ellen Laprise who has a medical marijuana license addressed the positive effects of medical marijuana with high CDDs used for treating children having seizures.

Future Meetings: As the year 2017 approaches the focus will be on a five-year Economic Development Plan. To encourage town participation Public Hearings will be posted, scheduled for evening meetings. The first to be held February 22 at 7:00 pm. John received a publication from the Worcester Chamber of Commerce listing categories of development that will serve as a guide. Nichols College and larger employers in town will be notified of upcoming plans.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion made at 9:49 by Marcia Wagner , 2nd Todd Donohoe