

Town of Dudley, Massachusetts

Economic Development Committee

Dudley Municipal Complex

71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571

John Briare, Chairman

Barbara Zurawski, Member

Todd Donohoe, Treasurer

Marcia Wagner, Secretary

Jo-Ann Szymczak

Pamela Boggio, Vice Chairmen

Ellen Laprise, Clerk

Russ Giglio – Alternate

Brian LaBrec - Alternate

Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2018

Meeting of April 17, 2018 was open at 10:00 AM with pledge of allegiance

Present: John Briare, JoAnn Szymczak, PJ Boggio, Ellen Laprise and Russ Giglio

Updates: A meeting on April 5, 2018 was held with the State Auditor Department, the Dudley Town Administrator, Charlton Town Administrator, Dudley Charlton School Superintendent and other school committee officials and DEDC Chair, John Briare. One of the issues brought to attention was the fact that the state does not meet its obligation of funding school transportation. The Dudley reimbursement for this deficiency totaled \$657,386. The State Auditors Dept, indicated that they will try and pressure legislators to ensure the states reimburses full funding. John Briare recommended doing away with the current School Funding Formula M.G.L Chapter 70 and replacing it with a new formula that does not depend on Property Tax for revenue and at the same time equally shares the costs of education amongst all citizens of Massachusetts, not just property owners.

Don Johnson, the Town Planner indicated that he had just received notice from CMRPC that there will be no state funding for technical resources of phases 2 and 3 in the development program they have been assisting in the town. When reached out to on this matter, state legislators were not convinced nor interested in making changes for funding this program.

Worcester County Economic Development meeting: John Briare, Greg Balukonis and Don Johnson attending the meeting that was hosted by the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. The focus was the CEDS "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and submitting town plans for possible Federal funding. Dudley's focus is on infrastructure, agriculture and revitalizing the old mills.

The Board of Selectmen will be holding public hearings on the two Articles proposed by the DEDC for the town warrant. The EDC is recommending and submitting a bylaw change for the Formation of a Permanent Recreation Commission and the Formation of a Permanent Agricultural Commission.

Discussion commenced between DEDC members about several economic issues. What is Nichols College projected growth plan and the plan's needs of the town such as infrastructure. PJ will get a punch list of projected needs for the next meeting. A current and ongoing need of Nichols students are places to eat and entertainment within the town.

The next topic of discussion was the empty mills in town. JoAnn brought up the constraints of development or renovation being safety, historic and bringing the old buildings to code. The committee will invite the building inspector and historic society to the next meeting on this issue. The town planner brought up the district village

walk to determine what might be done to enhance the area on lower West Main Street, looking at the current conditions for improvement.

Lastly was discussion of reaching out to local businesses to bring focus and possible assistance to them.

Motion to approve minutes of March 20, 2018 meeting was made by JoAnn Szymczak, 2nd by JP Boggio.

Motion to adjourn at 11:12 AM was made by Russ, 2nd by JoAnn