

**May 19, 2014**

**TOWN OF STERLING**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Economic Development Committee for the Town of Sterling was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2014. Those in attendance were: Jeffrey Donaldson, Brian Patacchiola, Brian Kindorf, James Patacchiola, Lindsay Lucarelli, and Paul Rehrig. Mr. Donaldson, chair of the committee, called the meeting to order and Lindsay Lucarelli kept the minutes of the meeting.

1. Previous Meeting Minutes – Review/acceptance of previous meeting minutes were postponed.
2. Webster Building Discussion
  - a. Guests attended the meeting who represented an organic pharmaceutical non-profit, called Garden Remedies. Garden Remedies' Representatives that attended the meeting were Karen Munkacy, M.D. (owner), Ron Smalley (consultant), and Mary Ann Walsh (advisor from Governmental Strategies, Inc.).
  - b. Garden Remedies has been granted the 7<sup>th</sup> of 20 provisional licenses to cultivate and distribute medical marijuana according the stringent regulations established by the Massachusetts' Department of Public Health Department.
  - c. Webster Building on Rt. 12 in Sterling is a preferred location for the cultivation and packaging of medical marijuana due to the fact that it was built by a veterinary supply company and therefore has many security features already in place. All products would be transported to a dispensary located in Newton, MA. The Sterling location would not serve as a dispensary.
  - d. Round table discussion and Q&A was held pertaining to Garden Remedies' Business Model, DPH stringent regulations and operational requirements, reason for interest in Sterling, Massachusetts, and the value of the Webster Building.
  - e. Garden Remedies' location to the Webster building would continue to generate approximately \$30,000 in property tax revenues for the town as well as excise taxes from over \$1M for equipment.
3. ECD Brochure, Collateral, Website

- a. Mrs. Lucarelli provided a brief overview of examples and research done from communities such as Westford, MA, Leominster, MA, and Petaluma, CA.
- b. Mrs. Lucarelli put forth Massachusetts Economic Target Areas Map (est. 2012) to committee members to evaluate tax incentive opportunities, methods to get Sterling included on map's next revision, and any other benefits and understandings that can be gathered.
- c. Committee will revisit the details of the Collateral Project at next Meeting.

There being no further business to come before the committee, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn.

Adjourned as voted.

Lindsay Lucarelli, Secretary *pro tem*