

June 24, 2013

**TOWN OF STERLING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Economic Development Committee for the Town of Sterling was called to order at 6:55 p.m. on Monday, June 24, 2013.

Those in attendance were:

Jeffrey Donaldson – Chairman,
James Patacchiola – Vice Chairman
Kevin Sanders – Secretary
Michael Pineo (6:55)
Paul Rehrig
Brian J Patacchiola – Selectman

Mr. Donaldson, chair of the committee, called the meeting to order and Kevin Sanders, Secretary, kept minutes of the meeting.

The first item of business was to review minutes from the previous meeting. After discussion, and upon a motion made by Mr. Patacchiola and seconded by Mr. Rehrig, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The second order of business was continued discussion on a business database. Mr. Patacchiola mentioned we should take another look at our task of calling businesses and consider a form letter. Mr. Sanders suggested we could use the letter as an invite for the potential open house as well. Mr. Rehrig will take the new data we have and validate it then upload it to Google docs for access by the Committee.

The third order of business was to review potential candidates for the open seat on the EDC. After discussion of all potential candidates Mr. Sanders made a motion to recommend Mr. Kindorf to fill the vacant seat on the committee, which was seconded by Mr. Rehrig and approved unanimously. Mr. Sanders recommended that we have the other potential candidates sit on the committee as non-voting associate members for more input.

The last order of business was to welcome guest speaker Arthur Bergeron, who chairs the Marlborough Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Donaldson introduced the committee to the speaker and mentioned to the speaker that we would like his insight on what's working for them and what's not so we can be as efficient as possible in our endeavors.

Some of the talking points were as follows:

- Annual Innovation Summit – Mr. Bergeron explained this summit where the Marlboro EDC reaches out to business, some outside of Marlborough, to get feedback on services, infrastructure, etc.

- Goal of the Marlborough EDC – Stable residential tax rate not economic development. The message goes over well with taxpayers. Who see a benefit to them by encouraging smart growth.
- Funding: Funding for the Marlborough EDC comes from a hotel room tax increase which brings in substantial revenue.
- Trends – Trend is that people are leaving Boston for reduced rents in the suburbs. The businesses in the suburbs however need amenities to make up for shortfalls of being outside the city.
- Jobs Fair – This is an annual event.

Mr. Donaldson would like committee members to bring a list of positives for the town. Mr. Pineo mentioned that Agriculture cannot be forgotten in plans.

Next meeting Monday, July 22, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

VOTED: To adjourn.

Adjourned as voted.

Kevin Sanders, Secretary