

Economic Development Committee
Meeting Notes
November 30, 1999

Present: Jody Kablack, Al Cappeloni, Larry O'Brien, Tom Phelps, John Barry, Peter Joseph, Kirsten Roopenian, Bryan Koop, Dave Kerrigan, Marianne D'Angelo

New member Marianne D'Angelo was introduced, taking Jodi Raphael's position.

The Master Plan survey results and the Economic Development element of the Master Plan were distributed and discussed.

The zoning proposal on Old County Road was discussed, including Town Meeting procedures, difficulties of rezoning in general and the role that the EDC may play in the proposal.

Committee members expressed a desire to play a larger role in press relations and education of the community (newspaper articles, Town Web site articles, education through the schools). The first step is to become visible and credible before making recommendations.

It was decided that press releases should be written by EDC members on a rotating basis. The first release will come from the Selectmen – introducing the committee and its charge, setting the direction of the committee and notifying interested residents that John Mullin will be speaking at the 12/14 meeting. The 2nd release is to be a summary of the demographic data compiled by Bryan Koop. The 3rd press release should list facts about the business district and possibly survey results relating to the Economic Development element.

The meeting notice for the 12/14 meeting will be distributed to the Chamber of Commerce, and several business owners (Ted Pasquerello, Methods Machines owner).

The matrix developed by Dave Chenok of possible actions to be taken by the committee was discussed. The group's main interests were (1) adding commercial property to the tax roll, (2) business attraction in existing spaces and (3) education. Data is on vacant and under-developed properties so that the potential can be assessed. After that, determining the types of businesses Sudbury wants will be required. It was felt that the committee and the Town needs to work with the business property owners and identify potential uses of under-developed sites. Do we want retail or office here?

We will be asking John Mullin to work within the matrix to help guide the committee to focus on the items that may have the greatest chance for success.

Notes taken by J. Kablack