

Economic Development Committee
Meeting Notes
Jan. 18, 2000

PRESENT: Dave Chenok, Maureen Valente (Acting Town Manager), Larry O'Brien, Ron Stephan, John Barry, Marianne D'Angelo, Dave Kerrigan, Peter Joseph, Bryan Koop, Michael Burkin, Michael Vivaldi, Kirsten Roopenian

Michael Burkin received information from the New Bedford Economic Development Council. They act as a super broker for economic development projects. They have a good database of commercial parcels and owners. They produce literature and act as a contact for all business and industrial projects. They also have a full time staff position. It was also reported that in the town of Norfolk, they have business core zoning where requirements are relaxed.

Maureen Valente gave an overview of the FY2001 budget. The primary revenue source is property tax (which is made up of 97% residential and 3% commercial). Therefore revenue is fairly inelastic except for the 2 ½% increase allowed by law. It has been difficult to meet the demand for educational and municipal services within the budget. Surrounding towns have larger commercial tax bases, therefore the impact from large capital projects and overrides has less of an effect on residential tax bills.

A list of opportunity parcels, or parcels that the EDC can focus on, is beginning to be developed. Included in the list are: Star Market (with the new owners of the chain, it is uncertain what will happen there), Mobil site at the corner of Nobscot and Route 20, Linde Gas (under P&S for a tennis/fitness complex).

The Committee discussed other ways to raise revenue for the town, including an Affinity Card (M. Burkin looking into this), rezoning parcels into commercial land (including the parcel on the 2000 Annual Town Meeting warrant), communicating with property owners on redevelopment/revitalization of sites, installation of fiber optic lines, grants, educating entrepreneurs on the demographic profile of Sudbury.

Dave Kerrigan gave the Committee an overview of the historical development of Sudbury. He will put this into a letter to editor format for the Town Crier as part of the continuing series of articles submitted by the EDC.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2000. John Mullin is scheduled to speak to the group that night.

Notes compiled by J. Kablack