



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD/COMMITTEE NAME: Mendon Economic Development Committee

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, February 5, 2018

TIME OF MEETING: 5:30 P.M.

LOCATION OF MEETING: 420 Fortune Boulevard, Milford, MA

Members Present: Tom Merolli (Chair), Karen Wheat (Secretary), Anne Mazar, John Danielson, Tim Persson, Jordan Berry

Meeting called to order 5:40 by chair Tom Merolli

1. Motion made to approve minutes from January – so moved, accepted.

2. Updates to Action items from Last Month:

Will invite Bill Ambrasino to March meeting – re: EDC section as it progresses with CMRPC

Treasurer cannot advise on how to sell town property.

Kevin Rudden from Blackstone Valley Express did an article on Tom Merolli -

<http://linpub.blob.core.windows.net/pdf/2/36db0be5-8b30-4b48-866d-476aee3ec5bb.pdf>

3. We met with owners of Pro Verde, at their facility to discuss their business and effect on local Milford community. Pro Verde is a test lab, concentrating primarily on Marijuana thermal effectiveness, acidity and contaminates. Test are required on any product that is to be sold. Discussed community “fear of the unknown”. Marijuana is

not a gateway drug, rather an exit drug. Fear overconsumption – effectiveness can take 45 min – 2 hours, and people may overconsume, thinking product isn't working. Worst case situation – fall asleep, no long term effects are incurred. Terpiens naturally occur and are the focus of testing. Security is very high at facility. Facility is ISO 17025 (standard for which most labs must hold accreditation in order to be deemed technically competent). The lab protects health and safety. Has 14 employees, and expects to triple this year. Opening a lab in S. Africa. Pro Verde's main clients are cultivators and dispensaries. 340 banks support lending, however none of the large banks are lending at the current time. Cultivation does use a lot of electricity (using solar could help offset). There are businesses working on using the extra parts of the plant – for many alternate uses.

Action Items:

- Send open for bus. Breakfast pix to Tom for FB upload
- Send Pro Verde visit pix to Tom for FB upload
- TM to get budget deadline dates – what are our deadlines to know when we could request funds, as needed or necessary. Budget – need to set up. Start to think of/work up a wish list. \$1K budget.
- TM to continue to reach out Agricultural committee to check on co-op idea.- no response. Try Peter Hawkes by phone. Anne will try to get # to Tom.
- Anne Mazar to look into MassWorks grants
- John will run a consumer spending report and demographics.
- Tom ask Chris Ryan how we could do an EDC plan? Are there any free hours thru CMRPC?
- Karen to look at Mass Development and Mass Growth in more detail to see how to use for the EDC
- Value and address of Fino Property? 1 Milford Street, 1 North Avenue? Tom to find out. Value of town owned property.
- 182 Blackstone Street – Tom to check on this property
- CMRPC – Housing Choice Initiative – helping with affordable housing – smart growth. Meeting 1/11/18 6:30, Anne to update findings at meeting.

- Tom to invite Franklin EDC to attend a future meeting to discuss Marijuana grow facility – March? And probably good idea to reach out to Milford – Brian Murray. Invite Uxbridge as well.
- Tom to invite Bill McHenry to future EDC meeting
- Continue to pursue: \$125K for the lot – 15 Inman Hill Road. Maybe the profit could be set aside so we can use it potentially purchase the Fino lot. Old: Town of Mendon bought some land on 15 Inman road some time ago, there is 1 house lot that the town could use to get \$. In between two houses. Could be \$100K to the town.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:45

Next meeting: Monday, 3/5/18 5:30 p.m.

The Chair reserves the right to call items on the agenda out of order. The times that are listed for items are approximate times, and items may be reached earlier or later than the posted times. The listing of items is those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.