



Town of Auburn Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2023, 6:30 pm

Members Present: Michael Carnevale (Chair), Mary Lauria-Joyal, Chris McCoy

Members Absent: Johnathan Sparling, Lindsay Baker

Staff Present: Brooke Hultgren, Economic Development Coordinator

The meeting was called to Order at 6:32 pm.

Economic Development Coordinator Report

Business Updates: Ms. Hultgren, Economic Development Coordinator, distributed copies of the 2022 Town Report which included a list of recently completed business development. The Mary D. Stone and Julia Bancroft Senior Apartments both wrapped up construction in 2022, as well as 7-12 Westec Drive; Lux Auto, 772 Southbridge St; 5 St. Mark St, Patrick Automotive; and 190 Washington St/Commerce Dr.

Grant Updates:

- The Town applied for \$50,000 in funding from the Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) grant, which was unfortunately was not approved. The grant scope included wayfinding signage along Routes 12 and 20, and upkeep of the Veteran's Parks.
- There was discussion about potentially requesting ARPA funds for Economic Development projects.

Town Update

The Board of Selectmen voted on November 14, 2022 to narrow the commercial tax shift to 1.12.

The Town will be working on updates to the Housing Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2023. Both plans were last updated in 2017 and should be updated every 5 years.

Excess funds from the Drury Square project were used to purchase 'Auburn' banners for the new light poles in the Square. The banner design came from the family of elements created for the Town in the Wayfinding & Branding Report.

The Committee discussed the desire to make Auburn a destination by expanding the allowed uses, specifically in Drury Square and at the Auburn Mall.

Next Meeting Date: TBD

Miscellaneous Business:

- Term Expirations: Mr. Sparling and Ms. Lauria-Joyal's Committee terms are due to expire in June 2023. The Town Clerk should be contacted if seeking reappointment.

The meeting was closed at 7:16 pm.