

**Town of Foxborough
Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2017**

Present: John Eva, Steve Coote, Mark Grebbins, Sr., Kurt Yeghian, Mike Stanton, Tom Murphy, Dan Krantz, Kevin Weinfeld, Paige Duncan

Fire Station/Funeral Home Market Study

- Cushman & Wakefield estimated \$20,000 to \$25,000 for the study. The group agreed this is too high. Aim for \$10,000 - \$12,000.
- Mike Stanton noted that the market study should remain confidential until the property sells. We will check with Town Counsel on this.

Downtown/Shuttle/Schneider Electric

- Member John Eva, who is Senior Vice President of Global Pursuits for Schneider Electric, informed the EDC that Schneider Electric anticipates a mass retirement from its Foxborough campus within the next 5-10 years. These retirements will result in the need for Schneider to hire between 500-700 new employees. Mr. Eva believes a majority of the workforce Schneider expects to attract will want to live in updated multi-family housing that is located in or near Downtown Foxborough with access to public transit and amenities. Since 1908, the Foxboro Company (now Schneider Electric) has been one of the Town's largest employers and has two campuses within walking distance to Downtown Foxborough. Due to its proximity to Downtown Foxborough, Schneider Electric and their almost 1,000 employees have been vocal in their need for increased dining, shopping and living opportunities within walking distance. Mr. Eva noted that the younger work force will want high quality housing with building amenities. Also, stores and pubs that can be walked to.
- As a follow up to the potential Schneider electric bus discussed at the last meeting, Mr. Eva indicated that anything Schneider does needs to be electric.
- Schneider would be interested in a shuttle bus between the Mansfield train station and Downtown. To Patriot Place also if train service begins. While they wait, they will continue to use their own cars. But they'd like to be part of a community solution if it works with their needs.
- Most Schneider employees do not have enough time at lunch to go to restaurants at Patriot Place. They'd prefer downtown lunch options.
- The YMCA would like a stop on the shuttle bus if a route is created.
- The EDC then discussed the Central Street parking lot (located behind businesses on Central Street). The condition is poor. Trash and dog waste is found there. The lot needs to be better maintained and advertised.

Route 1

- Mr. Stanton noted that the EDC should revisit the electronic billboard regs. It was noted that the group would like to wait until the Route 1 rezoning is complete so neither proposal affects the other.
- Route 1 rezoning amendments are underway.
- Steve Coote mentioned rail trails. Ms. Duncan asked that he take the lead on this possible opportunity.

Upcoming Meetings

- June 21
- July 19
- August 16 or 23.