

**Town of Foxborough
Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2020**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the EDC meeting was conducted both in person and via remote participation.

Present in Gala Meeting Room: Lorraine Brue, Tom Murphy, Dan Krantz, Kurt Yeghian, Mike Stanton, John Eva, Mike Saegh, Catherine Rollins, John Gray, Heather Harding, Leah Gibson (ex-officio), Paige Duncan (ex-officio)

Present Virtually (on Zoom): Barney Ovrut (ex-officio), Kevin Weinfeld (ex-officio)

Distribute, Review and Discuss New EDC Binders: Each member was given a three-ring binder containing the following tabs:

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| 1. EDC Mission Statement | 6. Destination Inventory |
| 2. Maps | 7. Growth Nodes |
| 3. Business Guide | 8. EDC Action Items Matrix |
| 4. Uptown Developments | 9. Implementation Section of Master Plan |
| 5. Covid Resiliency | 10. Town Financial Overview |

Lorraine and Paige reviewed the contents of the binder. It was agreed there are several iterations of the Mission Statement (original 2015 version by Sharon Wason/Bill Keegan, September 2019 revision and a version that appears on the EDC website (www.choosefoxborough.com)). Heather Harding had compiled the three different versions and provided a revision to consider. This information was taken under advisement by the group and will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Business Guide is from 2015 and needs to be updated.

Uptown Developments were summarized including three mixed-use projects (Wall Street, Fire Station/Funeral Home and Kingswood Commons). Wayfinding is underway. The Foxborough Common Business Collaborative (FCBC) is active. Meets first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 am on GoogleMeet. Heather Harding provided an update on the banner project associated with wayfinding. We hope to have banners up this fall. Schneider Electric closing part of their Neponset Ave campus will be a factor in the future. EDC may want to focus on the long term highest and best use for that land that will likely be available at the end of 2021.

Paige discussed Covid resiliency and how the EDC/Town can support local businesses during these difficult times. Asked everyone to put on their creative thinking caps. Is there anything we can do to help businesses if there is another shutdown? Seventeen restaurants have taken advantage of the temporary outdoor dining permits the Town allowed. The concern is once it gets colder, how will restaurants and other businesses that have benefited from mild weather continue to operate? To be discussed at the next meeting. Paige, Lorraine, Kevin Weinfeld and Heather Harding will work on a survey for local businesses.

Paige updated the group on the current effort with Mass Gaming Commission funding to create a regional destination for the Towns of Foxborough, Plainville and Wrentham, and their major destinations, Gillette Stadium/Patriot Place, Plainridge Park Casino and Wrentham Village Premium Outlets. The report has been completed and is posted on the EDC website (www.choosefoxborough.com) / http://www.choosefoxborough.com/visit/things_to_do_in_the_region The next step is to create a website to draw visitors into the region, and to help them understand what the region has to offer. Basically what's nearby and things to do.

Route 1: The Route 1 sub-committee provided a brief update on their activities. The group continues to meet to discuss issues relative to Route 1. Right now everyone is waiting to see what the market does. The two plus year effort to rezone Route 1 has been completed and now it's up to the market to respond. Covid has not helped this. The Route 1 resurfacing effort has been delayed which provides more time for the Town and others to install infrastructure. With questions are the number, if any, Patriots games to be held this season, parking lot revenue will be down but the bond payment will still be required.

Business Support/Resiliency: John Eva noted that with everyone learning and working from home that IT infrastructure is of paramount concern. The Town should work with providers to ensure that internet service is maintained and has high capacity. Power outages are also a concern. Ensuring high quality delivery of power and internet will support both small and large businesses.

Minutes of July 15, 2020 were approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.