

Economic Development Council Meeting
Minutes: February 7, 2007; 9:30 am
Judge Welsh Room

Present:
Members: Vice Chairman William Dougal, W. Todd Dever, Henry Tuttle, Alix Ritchie, Steve Melamed, Astrid Berg,
Absent: Thanassi Kuliopulos, Gabrielle Hanna

Staff: Acting Assistant Town Manager/Grant Administrator Michelle Jarusiewicz; Town Manager Keith Bergman
Consultants: Peter Kwass – Mt. Auburn, Michael Kane, Mt. Auburn
David Willard, CCEDC
Peter Smith – CEDC/Yarmouth
Dan Dray, CCEDC
Leslie Richardson, CCC

Meeting called to order at 9:35 am by Chairman Steve Melamed

Introductions

Peter Kwass/Michael Kane - Mt. Auburn Associates

Slide presentation from Mt. Auburn Associates, *Provincetown Economic Study: Key Findings* (see print/slide presentation).

Discussion following presentation

Cost of doing business increased, profitability decreased. (i.e., water/sewer betterment fees, housing costs, raw material costs, taxes, insurance, employment, housing, health costs, infrastructure).

Collection of data to analyze increased cost of doing business will be an important addition to study.

Unique nature of town - costs are inordinate in comparison with any normal/typical business model.

Need input from business community (Chamber of Commerce, PBG, etc.) → schedule meeting closer to April Town Meeting when more business owners are in town. (End of March)

Affordability issues (housing) as well as cost of doing business in turn drives these important questions: Where is the next generation of business owners? Managers? Workers? This is an underlying worry/issue.

Turnover of retail businesses may be a part of the increase demographic.

Look to comparable communities and what's going on there, what's working there, what's trending there.

What are the opportunities to develop economic drivers for the future?

Unique geography hinders cross-community or regional opportunities.

Can an index be developed to quantify cost of living? Cost of doing business? Revenue? Growth Rates?

Because town does not own its water, it is self-limiting in terms of growth limits. Growth Management By-Laws deal with this.

Need a collective business strategy/plan for future. Currently lacking the synergy towards the future within the business community.

Linking housing initiative and economic initiatives is imperative.

Take study results and move forward to identify opportunities for developing strategic plan.

Identify challenges and opportunities in Provincetown and then compare to other case studies for insight. (Aspen, Key West, Park City, Montana)

Outstanding Issues from today's meeting:

1. Business Costs
2. Comparables trends in other communities
3. Opportunities
4. Effort to project demographic trends

5. Housing related to economic development

Mt. Auburn to flesh out these areas and to bring back to the group an action plan as all 5 areas are not able to be addressed within the time & scope of current contract.

For business group meeting look to develop list of opportunities that business groups see. Develop structure for business group meeting.

Mt. Auburn will analyze and prioritize the above 5 issues. Mt. Auburn to provide electronic copy of presentation.

February 21st EDC meeting: Next Steps discussion; Mt. Auburn to participate via phone.

Business Group Meeting: March 29th.

Michelle Jarusiewicz

For Monday night's BOS meeting (February 12, 2007), Selectmen are requesting meeting with the EDC to comment of policy direction regarding set aside sewer gallonage voted from November's Town Meeting. EDC will need updates on various projects (ShankPainter, transfer station) prior to going back to the BOS. EDC has already provided 4 criteria to BOS for allocation of gallons.

Motion by Alix to reiterate to BOS the criteria presented in October 2005

Seconded by Bill

All vote to approve motion: 5 in favor, 0 against, 2 absent

Michelle: Update on grant to Mass Cultural, will notify EDC when information received.

Astrid moved to adjourn at 12:02 pm