

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room at the Town Offices. Present were: Chairman John Fenton, Marlene Hoyt, Andrea Leary, Holly Nahabedian and David Pierre; also present were: Planning Director Paul Materazzo, Senior Planner Lisa Schwarz, Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, Selectman Paul Salafia, and Selectman Alex Vispoli.

**Listening Tour**

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan presented some priority objectives including proposing to move the Municipal Services Facility from Lewis Street to Campanelli Drive which will result in the opportunity to rebuild the current Lewis Street site. Mr. Flanagan explained the mechanics of his proposed Warrant Articles as written on pages vii-viii in the *Town Manager's Recommended Fiscal 2017 Budget & Financial Plan* booklet which was distributed. The cost to relocate Municipal Services will be relatively the same as rebuilding it on the current site, but will provide a huge economic, Transit Oriented Development opportunity. The new site will be built to allow increased efficiency for storing vehicles and better services delivery. EDC can help to market the Warrant Articles by communicating the benefits of the move including the opportunity to redevelop the current site, improve services delivery and public safety. The redevelopment would create a more varied and vibrant Downtown, encourage the business community to stay and grow, stabilize residential taxes, and provide more housing options while maintaining sensitivity to community needs and current demographics.

A non-binding solicitation will be sent to developers to gauge interest and ideas about rebuilding the current Town Yard site.

Mr. Pierre moved and Ms. Hoyt seconded that the EDC support the Municipal Services Facility Recommended Financing Plan Warrant Articles as written on pages vii-viii in the *Town Manager's Recommended Fiscal 2017 Budget & Financial Plan* booklet. The motion passed unanimously.

**Imagine Andover Team**

Mr. Materazzo distributed the *Imagine Andover* handout explaining the "Downtown summit" which will take place on Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Historical Society. Businesses will be able to express their thoughts/concerns, followed by a walk through the downtown engaging businesses in conversation about what they want to see, and allowing them an opportunity for discussion. The ultimate goal is to create and maintain a vibrant Downtown.

Andover was one of four Towns selected nationally for redevelopment by ICMA (International City/County Management Association).

**Other Business**

*Town Yard (Municipal Services Facility)*: this has become one of Andover's greatest assets in the Historic Mill District. It is important to create positive energy through social media, website, and other communications to encourage residents to vote at Town Meeting in support of moving the facility from Lewis Street to 5 Campanelli Drive. Most MassWorks grants are targeted toward these types of Transit Oriented Districts. Once the move is approved, the Townspeople will help to direct positive economic development, growth and vibrancy.

**Other Business (cont'd)**

*Town website:* there was discussion on the branding aspect including having clear, separate links to the Town and Schools. Mr. Pierre and Resident Steve Fink from Sustainable Andover are assisting and will plan to give a presentation to the EDC for feedback. The goal is to have a design within 6 weeks and have the website launched by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Downtown Businesses:* A suggestion was made to collect updates from businesses that have left town to determine why they have closed. Assigning an EDC “Ambassador” to new businesses moving in would be helpful in welcoming them and assisting in a smooth transition.

*Parking Update:* A team is forming to assist with the parking study implementation and to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

*Boutique Blow-out:* March 18-20<sup>th</sup> with free downtown parking.

EDC will continue to support the Town Yard initiative, website, and Downtown redevelopment over time. A goal setting session will be planned for the April 7<sup>th</sup> EDC meeting.

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. at the Historical Society

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Documents: *Town Manager’s Recommended Fiscal 2017 Budget & Financial Plan*  
*Imagine Andover* handout