

**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, Michael Morris Jr., Holly Nahabedian, and David Pierre; also present were: Planning Director Paul Materazzo and Selectman Alex Vispoli.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Pierre seconded by Ms. Hoyt, the Council voted to approve the June 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes by a unanimous vote.

**EDC Toolkit**

Mr. Fenton will email EDC members information for the “toolkit,” including Andover business demographics for review and discussion at the next EDC meeting.

**Business Relations Subcommittee Update**

Ms. Hoyt distributed a copy of the Business Relations June 24<sup>th</sup> Subcommittee Meeting Minutes which were discussed. The Subcommittee members are: Ms. Hoyt, Ms. Leary, Mr. Morris Jr. and Mr. Materazzo. The overall goal of the committee is to help retain Andover’s existing businesses and attract/stimulate new business and/or business formation. The objectives were reviewed and companies with 25+ employees will be identified.

Ms. Leary explained the survey that the subcommittee is developing to assist in identifying for examples: consistent information about companies as to why they located in Andover, key aspects that companies consider when choosing a site location and if those decisions are made locally or elsewhere, what companies like or dislike about the Andover location, what is needed/wanted for a company to continue to grow in Andover, future plans, and how EDC can offer support. A suggestion was made to add a question to the survey targeted at attracting younger talent to the area and what would be needed. A town volunteer/intern may be available to assist in this project. A survey draft will be sent to a representative from Spear Street Capital (who helped acquire Brickstone holdings from Minuteman Park) for feedback.

A suggestion was made to invite a real estate broker Listening Tour Guest to a future EDC meeting to help identify why commercial companies who look at real estate in Andover decide to choose another location. Demographics and other information about the types of companies would need to be carefully sorted for this information to be helpful.

Next subcommittee meeting is July 11<sup>th</sup> and this group will report back to EDC on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Listening Tour Guest – Shawsheen River Greenway project**

Mr. Mark Spencer, an Andover business owner, representing the Shawsheen River Greenway project, gave a slideshow presentation describing the project and its goals. The River is the historic and cultural center of Andover. With the Historic Mill District redevelopment plans and impending dam removal, the goal of the Shawsheen River Greenway Committee is to help create continuous paths from the Shawsheen River to Tewksbury and Lawrence for walkers, hikers, runners, and bicyclists to enjoy, and for the River to be revitalized as the heart of the Andover Community. The vision of how the river can be cleaned up and developed with walking trails, canoe launches, etc. is invigorating. The plan is to contact private property owners, create public outreach for awareness and support, and construct the trail in pieces and then expand. An

**Listening Tour Guest – Shawsheen River Greenway project (cont'd)**

organizational chart was displayed showing all the various public and private Andover groups who are working on different parts of this effort such as: Andover River Watershed Council helping to keep the River clean, Conservation Commission, Historical Society, Essex County Greenbelt Association, and more. An effort is being made to help coordinate all groups to work together toward a common goal.

Some suggestions were discussed as follows: solicit volunteers to assist with the clean-up effort such as from the schools, Scouts, or those who need to do community service; get a table at Andover Days to promote community awareness; organize a charity walk along the River; plan to include handicap accessible trails; and create better signage.

A tax exempt nonprofit organization status (501c3) is needed in order to apply for grant money and receive funding. Collaborating with the Conservation Commission could further demonstrate Town support which may help in receiving grant money. A suggestion was made to ask private businesses to sponsor sections of the trail to acquire some funding and get things moving more quickly.

The Shawsheen River Greenway Committee meets at noon on the second Tuesday of each month at Andover Town Offices. In the fall, ideas and discussions will continue and a timeline will be created to keep plans moving forward. Mr. Spencer will email his slides to EDC members.

**Review of EDC Charter**

A copy of the Economic Development Council Charter was distributed. Council Members were asked to review the document and email comments to Mr. Fenton for discussion at the next EDC meeting.

**Other Business**

*Website Project:* EDC will have its own website presence – its mission, members, meeting minutes and links to help keep pertinent organizations connected. Mr. Pierre has been studying Economic Development sites across the country and will suggest key points for review, and then request feedback by email prior to the next EDC meeting.

*ABCA and Andover Chamber Update:* Andover Days is currently the main focus of the ABCA. Rotary sub-group “Andover Cares” who is working to help the opioid crisis will be honored. ABCA and Andover Chamber are working to collaborate more and plan some joint events.

**Next Meeting**

July 14, 2016

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Documents: Business Relations June 24<sup>th</sup> Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
Economic Development Council Charter