

EDC Minutes – 15 October 2015

These are the meeting minutes from the Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts. The meeting took place on 15 October 2015 at the Acton Town Hall in Conference Room 204.

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 by Dick Calandrella.

Present: Allan Gulliver, Bharat Shah, Derrick Chin, Doug Tindal, Josh Fischel, Nancy Dinkel, Dick Calandrella

Not present: Ann Chang, Chingsung Chang, David Foley, Larry Kenah

Summary

The committee received a visit from Christopher Robbins, a senior member of the Southborough Economic Development Committee. Christopher shared his knowledge and insights from many years of work on the Southborough EDC.

Public Participation (1)

There was no public participation.

Presentation – Christopher Robbins, Southborough EDC

1. The State of Mass maintains a “State Data Base”.
2. Website development for the EDC is very important.
3. In Southborough, businesses pay 19% of total town tax revenues.
4. Southborough has approx. \$40 million in unfunded Pension liabilities.
5. Non-profits are the largest employers in Southborough.
6. The Southborough EDC addresses four groups of constituents:
 - a) Residents
 - b) Public Sector
 - c) Businesses
 - d) Non-Profits
7. There is a so-called “Economic Scoreboard for Cities” available.
8. Framingham State University runs an economic research center. Maureen Dunne is the primary contact. Southborough commissioned an economic study at a cost of about \$3,000 dollars.
9. Christopher believes the EDC should be a primary player on the stage during Town Meetings.

10. The color brochure that the Southborough EDC created cost about \$4,000 dollars.
11. The town of Marlborough has a very strong and active EDC. Tim Cummings is a contact there.
12. Barry Bluestone at Northeastern University is an expert on economic development and ED tools.
13. A "Permit Guide" is a very useful tool.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at about 9:39 pm.

These minutes were recorded by Allan Gulliver.