

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**August 20, 2014**

**Present:** Bill Plasko, Chairman, Denis Drummey, Steve Costello, Paul Halkiotis, Town Planner  
( No Quorum)

**Discussion with Charlotte Finley, Plimpton Press**

**Present:** Michael Coyne, Jones Lang Lasalle, Capital Markets

Ms. Maynard and Mr. Coyne discussed their efforts to market the buildings at Plimpton Press. Ms. Finley currently has some short term leases (6 months – 2 years). The Brewery only wanted to rent 5,000 s.f. and that would be too small when you have a 350,000 s.f. building.

Ms. Maynard talked about her effort to redevelop the Plimpton Press property. Mr. Coyne is working with Ms. Maynard to find developers and they have just started that process to put together a development team to evaluate the property and recommend redevelopment options.

Mr. Costello asked what the market place demand is at this time. Mark Keiren, Atlantic Commercial is the broker and he said that the residential market is still stronger than commercial markets.

Mr. Drummey handed out information on a financial services company that he would like to see locate there. Mr. Drummey thinks these types of firms will be looking for cheaper lease space. Ms. Finley said that a fashion design company was interested but that would mean a reverse commute from South Station and trains don't run out here frequently enough for a reverse commute.

Mr. Drummey said that the MBTA will change their schedule if there is a demand and noted that we need better employees in Norwood. Mr. Coyne stated that they have a leasing team that will be working on leasing the space. They are also looking at options for redevelopment. The possibility of a TIF and/or re-zoning the land were discussed.

Mr. Costello said that commercial would have fewer impacts and that Norwood is a pro-business Town and would be willing to work with people.

### **Meeting with Tom O'Rourke, NVCC**

Mr. Plasko talked about the request from the Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce for \$7,500 to fund the Regional Working Group and other work done by the Chamber such as representing the Town on the MPO. Mr. Plasko noted that there was \$10,228 left in the Economic Development account.

Mr. Plasko asked Mr. O'Rourke how much time he spends on MPO related work. Mr. O'Rourke said they meet twice a month in Boston to discuss the 93/95 University Station Ramp.

Mr. Plasko wanted to know how much other Towns pay. Mr. O'Rourke said that originally it was \$10,000 per Town, now Westwood gives \$7,500 and Dedham gives \$6,500 for the Regional Working Group.

Mr. Costello discussed the TIP process and Mr. O'Rourke is a TRIC representative and has been elected MPO representative.

Mr. Drummey stated that we should have a regional employment center. Mr. Costello feels that the Regional Working Group is good for the Town and we should fund it.

The Economic Development committee did not have a quorum, so could not vote. Mr. Plasko will discuss this with the Board of Selectmen and if a vote is needed the EDC will call another meeting.

The Economic Development Committee adjourned.