

**Economic Development
Committee**

William Plasko, Chairman
Alan Slater
Scott Murphy
Thomas Wynne
Denis Drummey
Stephen Costello



**Planning and Economic
Development Director**

Paul Halkiotis

General Manager

John J. Carroll

Economic Development Committee Minutes, June 17, 2015

Present: Bill Plasko, Alan Slater, Scott Murphy, Steve Costello, Tom Wynne, Paul Halkiotis, John Carroll

Committee Reorganization – Chairman & Vice-Chairman

Mr. Plasko told the Committee that Mr. Drummey was unable to attend the meeting and asked if the reorganization could be delayed for another time. Mr. Costello said that the group has always had a representative from the Selectmen who would listen to opinions and bring these opinions back to the Selectmen. Discussion ensued.

The Committee talked about setting EDC meetings on the third Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be on July 15th @ 6:00 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Wynne to approve the EDC meeting schedule, seconded by Mr. Murphy

Vote Unanimous

Motion made by Mr. Slater to delay the re-organization until the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Costello

Vote Unanimous

Universal Wilde – George Romich & Robert Lieberman

Mr. Plasko explained that Universal Wilde has shown interest in coming to Norwood and introduced Mr. Lieberman to let him explain.

Mr. Lieberman stated that they have leased two units (122,000 s.f.) at 675 Canton Street. The Universal Wilde facilities in Summerville and Rockland will be re-locating to Norwood. Fifty employees will re-locate to Norwood and there will be some new hires.

Mr. Lieberman explained that Universal Wilde is compiled of 11 companies that have merged into Universal Wilde. They are working on improvements to the building and will move in the Fall. They may expand into an abutting unit at 657 Canton Street.

Mr. Lieberman talked about the various locations their employees would be commuting from.

Mr. Halkiotis said that there is a Neponset River Valley Transportation Management Association with various transportation agencies that can help provide connections for the employee between public transportation and the job site.

Mr. Plasko thanked Universal Wilde for coming and said they will look into TIF's or any other program from the State and pass along this information.

Tom O'Rourke, NVCC

Mr. Plasko told Mr. O'Rourke that the Committee wanted to discuss whether or not to continue with the Chamber and to talk about the funding. The Economic Development fund that was used in the past does not have enough money.

Mr. Halkiotis explained that the Planning Board budget does have enough funding to cover the entire invoice and he will discuss putting a line item in the budget for next year to take care of the services he provides.

Mr. O'Rourke talked about his involvement in the Regional Working Group which is Canton, Walpole, Westwood and Dedham. Mr. O'Rourke also talked about his role in the Boston Region MPO where they divide up federal highway funds that come into the State.

Mr. Plasko noted that Norwood is looking at the Upland Road intersection and Mr. O'Rourke said that he has met with Mr. Ryan but currently it is low on their list. Mr. O'Rourke said with what is going on at Upland Woods it might move the rating up.

Mr. Plasko said that he has seen the Chamber becoming more involved in Norwood projects and because of this he is quite pleased to support this.

MOTION made by Mr. Costello to approve Mr. Halkiotis sending funds to the Chamber to cover their expenses, seconded by Mr. Murphy

VOTE Unanimous

Update – Industrial Properties

Mr. Halkiotis told the Committee that he had talked to the gentleman from Carthadis and was told that they bailed out on the purchase and sales agreement for the Norwood Commerce Center. There were issues with contamination. Mr. Plasko said that at one time the Town was in discussions about purchasing this property and after bringing in a licensed site professional they were told not to get involved with it.

Mr. Halkiotis said that David DuPree from Carthadis told him that they still had the Comenitz property (Morse Street) under agreement. Discussion ensued on re-zoning the industrial properties.

Expedited Permitting 43D

The Committee discussed designating the Polaroid site as an Expedited Permitting District. Mr. Halkiotis told the Committee that the owners would have to approve the change.

MOTION made by Mr. Slater to recommend to the Planning Board to designate the Polaroid site as an Expedited Permitting District, seconded by Mr. Murphy
VOTE Unanimous

The Economic Development Committee adjourned.