

**BOARD/COMMITTEE:** Economic Development Committee  
**MEETING DATE:** February 16, 2023  
**TIME:** 7:30 PM  
**PLACE:** **Hybrid Meeting - Boxborough Town Hall - Morse Hilberg Mtg. Room & Zoom Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 7:40pm

Members present: Mark White (in-person), John Neyland (in-person), Rich Guzzardi (in-person), Kristin Hilberg (Zoom), and Marta Andreau (Zoom)

Ex Officio Members Present: Becky Neville (Fin Comm), Alexander Wade (Town Planner)

Community Members: Francie Nolde (Sustainability Committee), Barbara Salzman (Sustainability Committee), Maria Neyland (Finance Committee)

### **Minutes:**

Chairperson Guzzardi opened the meeting with the minutes from the December 20, 2022 EDC Meeting. Mark White motioned to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2022 EDC Meeting. John Neyland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with White, Neyland, Guzzardi, Hilberg and Andreau all in favor.

### **Green Communities:**

Francie Nolde presented the Massachusetts Green Communities Warrant Article. It was disclosed that adoption would result in a \$0.42 per month charge to residential electric rate payers, which would fund the program and make the town eligible for grants promoting renewable energy. A great majority of communities in Massachusetts are already Green Communities. This warrant article is made possible by the law change in the State Legislature that would allow communities with municipal electric companies to participate (the so called Boxborough Bill).

Discussion from the EDC members focused on impact to business. What is the cost to business, what do our businesses and commercial property owners think of this? Francie took the action to check on the cost to businesses, and Alec was going to see if he could pulse businesses in town. it was further discussed that the impact should be known and marginal as many communities in Massachusetts are already Green Communities, and the town has already adopted stretch building code goals, so much of what would be required is already promulgated in our regulations.

### **Budget:**

Chairperson Guzzardi discussed that we needed to formalize and approve our budget proposal for FY 2024. Maria Neyland (Finance Committee Chair) indicated that the EDC is requesting \$500 more than the FY 23 budget for consultant. The committee discussed this and determined that it is asking for an additional \$500 for consulting, which amount is intended to be used by our Town Planner to hire an intern, college student or consultant to inventory and profile our businesses and property owners in town to create a master list and database. This is a long-term goal and one that is called out in our Boxborough 2030 Master Plan.

White motioned to approve the EDC FY 24 budget proposal of \$4,250. Hilberg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with White, Neyland, Andreau, Hilberg and Guzzardi all voting in favor.

**Massachusetts Magazine:**

Chairperson Guzzardi presented the question to the EDC as to whether or not it wanted to participate in the Massachusetts site selection magazine to be published in Q2 of 2023. This opportunity was presented as an initiative by Mass Econ, of which Boxborough is a member. This would involve purchasing an ad in the site selection magazine for approximately \$2,200, which would be an ad viewed by developers and businesses looking to work in the state.

Discussion focused on whether or not this is the right medium for us to market ourselves, what our overall brand is, and who is best suited to advertise. Given that the short timeframe for a decision and publication, the committee decided to defer. The contact was relayed to Campanelli in case they wanted to advertise as part of marketing The Park.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Next meeting is the 9th of March, 2023

**Adjournment:**

White motion to adjourn at 10:10. Guzzardi seconded. All members voted in favor (White, Neyland, Andreau, Hilberg & Guzzardi)