

Town of Dudley, Massachusetts
Economic Development Committee
71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571

Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 10:30 AM

Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 W. Main Street, Dudley, MA, Room 321 A

1. Call to Order - Pledge

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 and the Chairman stated that this meeting is being recorded.

In attendance were members Todd Donohoe, Kelsey Buccelli, Jo-Ann Szymczak, Mark Marzeotti, Ricky Bowdon, and Bill Scanlan of the Planning Board. Also present were members of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) via Zoom.

2. Dialogue With CMRPC on the Gateway Plan —

Jane Wyrick with the CMRPC led a review of the Dudley Gateway survey in which updates from the previous meeting had been incorporated. A draft press release was reviewed, and updates were suggested to include contact information for Mr. Scanlan, and instructions for using the QR code. A draft flyer was presented and discussion ensued regarding the distribution of the flyer to maximize reach and response rate. Members discussed the possibility of including the flyer with scheduled Town mailings, newspaper publications, and providing access in public areas such as schools, the senior center, recycling center, and at Nichols College. A suggestion was also discussed to request other Boards mention the survey during meetings.

Ms. Wyrick led a discussion on other short-term, medium-term, and long-term placemaking opportunities, such as a sidewalk art event, and various streetscape improvements. Members discussed potential locations for events including the Shepherd Hill high school parking lot, how to engage and partner with the arts community, and coordinating with existing town events such as the tree lighting and annual strawberry and apple festivals. Ms. Szymczak highlighted the "Discover Dudley" signage and suggested incorporating as a theme to these events.

3. Town Planner Update —

Mr. Scanlan of the Planning Board provided an update Of current development activity. Two model bylaws are being drafted by the Planning Board relative to short term rentals. Other activity included the scheduled discussion of the Airport Road and Dudley Hill Road intersection at the January 22nd Meeting of the Board of Selectmen, including realignment of road traffic, With a second phase to include additional sidewalks to improve access and enhance safety. Mr. Scanlan also provided an update regarding the terms of existing members: Ms. Laprise and Mr. Marzeotti were

reappointed to the Committee by the Planning Board with terms expiring on June 30, 2025. The remaining members' terms have been confirmed and will be scheduled to be reappointed by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Bowden is scheduled to appear before the Board of Selectmen for appointment to the Economic Development Committee at the upcoming meeting on January 22nd.

4. Open Discussion —

Mr. Marzeotti initiated a discussion regarding funding of the ongoing work with CMRPC. Mr. Scanlan confirmed the Gateway Study work is funded from the state grant received and is project-based; the corridor study is captured under separate state funding; and the open space and recreational project work has been funded by the Town and hours donated by the Planning Board.

Adjournment:

Todd Donohoe motioned to adjourn at 11:34. Jo-Ann Szymczak seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsey Buccelli
Economic Development Committee Vice Chair