

**Economic Development Committee
Town of Norwell, Massachusetts**

EDC Charter

July 13, 2011

I. Vision Statement from 2005 - 2025 Norwell Master Plan:

To protect Norwell's natural environment and its green and semi-rural character, while enhancing the town's small-town and family-oriented community life, and its overall livability.

II. EDC Mission Statement:

Consistent with Norwell's Master Plan, recommend ways to increase Norwell's commercial tax revenue by creating opportunities for economic development through desirable business growth, expansion, and retention.

III. Objectives:

A. Create a "Business Vision" identifying Norwell's strengths and reasons why businesses should locate in Norwell.

B. Foster and promote ideas and opportunities that will facilitate new investment in Norwell, thereby creating new revenue sources, broadening the commercial tax base, and increasing local employment and business vitality.

C. Serve as a conduit between the commercial economic interests in Norwell and the Municipal Government.

D. Interact with Norwell Chamber of Commerce, South Shore Chamber of Commerce, land owners, business owners, neighbors/residents to reach a harmonious balance among their interests and objectives.

IV. Actions:

A. Utilize resources available from the South Shore Chamber of Commerce which:

- i) Analyze regional trends on the South Shore so as to determine how Norwell “fits.”
- ii) Analyze projects ongoing outside Norwell including:

- Southfield
- South Shore Park
- Weymouth Libbey Industrial Park
- Derby Street
- Others

- iii) Analyze business segments undergoing growth such as Health Care (South Shore Hospital, South Shore Medical, etc.)

B. Analyze impediments to growth in Norwell by:

- i) working with major land owners of commercial properties to understand plans for future development and identifying any barriers to commercial development.
- ii) examining infrastructure needs/impediments such as traffic, water & sewer/septic issues.
- iii) reviewing Norwell’s General Bylaws and Zoning Bylaws, Rules & Regulations and practices relative to those of other towns to determine their impact on existing and proposed commercial business in Norwell.
- iv) recommending ways to streamline Norwell’s permitting process according to permitting “best practices.”

C. Identify new/expanded commercial businesses for Norwell by:

- i) reviewing the inventory of existing Norwell businesses by name and type
- ii) studying the *types of businesses and stores* already in Norwell, with a view toward enhancing the environment for them and possibly prioritizing similar businesses for marketing actions.
- iii) examining multiple types of businesses (commercial office, industrial, and hotel & restaurant space) and all established business districts (Business A, Business B and Residential (for allowed business uses).
- iv) recruiting major commercial users to locate to Norwell.

D. Work with Norwell’s municipal departments:

- i) Meet as needed with the Planning Board and other appropriate boards, departments & committees to understand existing by-laws & practices and to understand and coordinate with their current activities and efforts.
- ii) Meet semi-annually with the Board of Selectmen, or as requested by either the EDC or the Selectmen, to review the EDC’s activities, proposed goals and initiatives, in order to obtain

input and/or approval from the BOS. List all activities/initiatives, including those which are perennial, those that may carryover from the prior year, and new activities.

V. Administrative Matters:

- A. Members shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen with the objective to appoint individuals with the skills and talents required to fulfill the EDC's mission. Members will serve for three years with staggered terms to provide continuity. There shall be a minimum of five and a maximum of seven members selected from town residents. In addition, the Town Planner will be a non-voting member. The committee shall have the authority, with consent from the BOS, to establish sub-committees or ad-hoc committees to accomplish specific tasks or investigations.
- B. Members shall file affidavits with any potential conflicts of interest to the town clerk and comply with the Open Meeting Laws.
- C. The committee shall elect a chairman each year by majority vote, following the appointment and/or re-appointment of members by the Board of Selectmen. A secretary shall be elected by majority vote and be responsible for meeting minutes which shall be subject to review and approval by the committee and subsequently forwarded to the Town Administrator and Town Clerk.
- D. The chairman shall set the meeting schedule. All meetings shall abide by public meeting laws.
- E. The EDC shall file an annual report to the Board of Selectmen in accordance with town rules for committees

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