

Essex Economic Development Committee  
July 9, 2019 7:00 p.m.  
3rd Floor Auditorium Essex Town Hall  
30 Martin Street  
Minutes

**Members Present:** Martha Mazzarino, Chair, Donna Roy, Georganne Richards, Westley Burnham, Michael Cataldo

**Staff Present:** Brendhan Zubricki, Town Administrator, Matt Coogan, Town Planner

**Others Present:** Ruth Pereen, Selectman, Raul Gonzalez, Economic Development Planner, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

**Public Comment:** None

There were new outstanding meeting minutes to approve.

**Presentation:** Essex Economic Development Plan Kickoff with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

Raul Gonzalez introduced himself as the Committee's consultant from the MAPC. He would provide technical assistance for the Committee to create an Economic Development Plan for the Town. Raul provided demographic and economic data from the Town for the EDC to review. The Planner and the EDC would review these numbers and check for accuracy.

Specific Items discussed included the lack of public transportation options for employers and employees.

Raul discussed next steps, including assembling a Business Roundtable group, and requested that the EDC recommend business owners that should be contacted to participate in the plan. Raul also discussed an Open House public event later in the fall that would kick off the public participation process of the plan.

**Update concerning downtown striping and signage project:** The Town approved funding to complete the striping of Main Street at Town Meeting to formalize public parking. Brendhan has identified a transportation engineering firm that can provide the engineering design services for \$31,000. That cost is significantly less than what was anticipated. The Town will contract with TEC and begin the design process, coordinating with MassDOT.

The EDC set the next meeting date for Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.