

**Somerset Economic Development Committee [SEDC]
Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2017**

Meeting Location: Somerset Public Library – 1464 County Street, Somerset

In attendance: Joe Bednarik, Jim Burke, Arthur Gauthier, Sharron Machamer, Shannon Martin, Steve McNally, Joyce Mello, Bonnie Mendes, Lloyd Mendes, Fran Thomas. Also in attendance Lori Belche and Selectman Steve Moniz.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by the chairman, Jim Burke.

Jim Burke announced that the meeting was not being recorded.

Fran Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/12/2016 meeting, Lloyd Mendes seconded. Minutes approved.

Jim discussed a letter that was sent to the Mass. Dept. of Transportation regarding the redesigned signage for the Slade's Ferry Crossing District. We are waiting for a response.

Route 6 land sale: No response to the last RFP [Request for Proposal]. It is being sent out again. Question, can we go with a broker to sell the land?

Business Liaison/Ambassadorship: Shannon Martin reported that there was a ribbon cutting at Jewel Day Spa and she has reached out to other new/expanded businesses in town. She emailed SEED about trying to run a workshop since the last one did not have enough interest. Shannon has had some people reach out regarding available space in town. There was some discussion on available/empty locations. Also discussed was the question of obtaining a Constant Contact and/or Vertical Response account for quarterly email blasts with information for small business. Send Jim content ideas for what we could include in a newsletter and we can decide on this at the next meeting.

The name change to Slade's Ferry Boulevard will be effective Feb. 1, 2017. The Highway Department will put up the street signs before that date.

Guide to Somerset: Department Heads have submitted some changes/comments. Steve McNally presented an example New Bedford uses for businesses. Jim and Steve will meet to discuss the suggestions. The committee discussed the importance of up-to-date links on the Town website to this information.

Annual Report: The Annual Report of SEDC is due this month for publication in the 2016 Annual Report that will be made available at the Annual Town Meeting. The committee reviewed the draft that Jim had created.

Question arose about our past discussions on the need for a Town Planner/ Grant Writer. Mr. Moniz will ask Mr. Brown to be at the next Economic Development meeting so we can ask him our questions.

Lloyd Mendes asked about the progress on the Somerset Port options. Mr. Moniz reported on the status and stated that our State Legislators are working with the Board of Selectmen on port options and future. The economic importance of deep-water ports was discussed.

The status of Brayton Point was discussed.

Bylaw meetings regarding signage have been taking place. Jim and Joe Bednarik will continue to work on this.

Joyce Mello asked about the Community Compact Program and what it entailed.

Lloyd Mendes and Fran Thomas plan on attending the next Southcoast Rail meeting on Feb, 7, 2017

Joe Bednarik wanted to say thank you for whoever did all the signage during the gas line construction in the Slade's Ferry area. He also described some of the issues businesses had during the project.

Next meeting March 13, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Mendes, Secretary