

Belmont Economic Development Advisory Committee

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BELMONT, MA

November 10, 2015

5:30 pm

2016 FEB 12 AM 9:03 Town Hall, Conf Rm 2nd floor

Meeting called by: Tomi Olson, Chair

Type of meeting: Town Committee Meeting

Facilitator:

Note taker: Erin Lubien

Attendees: Tomi Olson, Erik Rhodin, Silvia Cruz, Erin Lubien, Dan Dargon (guest)

Please read:

Please bring:

Minutes

Agenda item: Town Assessor Overview

Presenter: Dan

Discussion:

- Overview of tax base of Belmont with 5% secured through business.
- Discussed goal of maximizing tax revenue while maintaining small town feel.
- Discussed how to increase business tax base while supporting local business; medical grade office spaces yield highest tax base; possible location along Rt 2 for bio-tech or pharma building amenable to suburban-seeking organization.
- Discussed assessment cycle, buildings to be available (muni light building) and what possible business / revenue-generating / socially viable uses could be placed in that space.
- Asked about potential new buyers' tax as one way to increase tax revenue, which Dan stated is illegal because all must be taxed the same.
- Erik informed us on new housing acts coming up
 - HA 1111 – zoning reform - <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H1111>
 - HA 2540 - low income housing tax credits - <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H2540>
 - S. 122 – sustainable developments - <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/Senate/S122>

Conclusions:

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓

Agenda item: Belmont Center Update

Presenter: Tomi

Discussion:

Tomi and Brian met with Japan consulate; to write request for consideration of donation to Belmont Center.

Conclusions:

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ Send letter to consulate

Tomi / Erin

Agenda item: Other Topics to Explore

Presenter:

Discussion:

- MBTA meeting at Beech St Center; follow up from MBTA and their proposed charrette (small committee who can pull in resources as needed, but moves quickly) is non-existent.
- Business center paving projects are detrimental to our businesses. Cushing Sq retail owner reported down 80% year over year; barber reported business is awful.
 - What can we do to help?

Conclusions:

Action Items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Request facts and data about Cushing Sq business	Silvia	
✓ Brainstorm possible remediation / promotion	Next meeting	

Agenda item: Set Calendar

Presenter:

Conclusions:

Action Items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Set next agenda and schedule with Town Clerk	Tomi	
✓ Review and approve minutes at next meeting	All	
✓ Approved minutes to Town Clerk	Erin	

Other Information

Observers:

none

Next Meeting(s):

December 10, 2015 at 5:30 pm

January 12, 2015 at 5:30 pm

Special notes:

To discuss:

1. Confirm members listed at <http://www.belmont-ma.gov/economic-development-advisory-committee>
2. Review http://www.belmont-ma.gov/sites/belmontma/files/file/file/economic_development_advisory_committee_charge.pdf to finalize EDAC charge