

Town of Ayer

Office of Community & Economic Development

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Department Report Month(s) of March, April, May

Meetings/Day (Particular Interest)

(2)MPO meetings, (2) MEDC meetings and one full day conference, (3) BOS meetings, Workforce Development Breakfast, (3) Meetings with MART/MRPC representatives to discuss purchase of Berry property, (3) meetings with Mr. Berry, (1) Public meeting for CDBG, (3) IDFA meetings for business loans, (2) meetings with 3 Rivers Arts Council with their recent relocation to Ayer (Paige-Moore building), (1) meeting and multiple phone conversation with MassWorks project director pertaining to the Rail Trail MassWorks grant, a successful Town-Wide Yard Sale in Depot Square with thirty five vendors and a large crowd throughout the day.

Meetings/ Night (Particular Interest)

(2)Fire Station Meeting to discuss RFP, (5) July 4th Committee meetings and volunteer entertainer for Sock Hop Dance, volunteer staff for Taste of Nashoba, (2) meetings with owners of J & S about their Adopt a Spot Signage which will be erected soon and used to solicit other businesses into the program.

July 4 Event

Again this year I have been very active and involved with the July 4th Fireworks and Parade activities. I have coordinated all of the field vendors, parade participants, field entertainment, sponsorships, meeting agendas and financial coordination with the Treasurer. Due to the nature of the coordination for this, the Town's largest one day event, a substantial amount of time has been invested by my office to coordinate all the pertinent departments (Police, Fire, DPW, Parks and Rec) and the activities of the July 4th committee

Meetings w/ perspective business clients and Downtown project principles

(1) Meeting with John Mather and Lauri Crockett for new Spaulding Building restaurant, (2) meetings Kim Becker formalizing new marketing material, (2) IDFA meetings to discuss upcoming expansion of Optometrics with CEO Laura Lunardo, (2) meetings with perspective buyers for O'Hanlon's, Boston Meeting with MART, DCR, DCAM officials pertinent to transfer of Rail Trail property, (2) Info construction meetings with Nashoba Valley Medical Center expansion team, (1) Meeting with Director and Construction representative of the Ayer VOA about expansion at that facility (2) meetings with John Hillier relative to his medical marijuana facility

Department and Town-Wide Projects (Priority Projects)

The Office of Economic Development in conjunction with the Town's Cable Network APAC is completing an interesting project. Harry Zane, APAC member and I reached out to two very interesting companies here in Town, Medical Innovations and Advanced Vacuum Systems to produce short videos about their businesses. I met with the APAC team twice to organize our work and we then met and taped on three occasions with each of the representatives of these two companies. The video's are being edited for approval by the owners and will be scheduled for airing in the very near future. Excellent project that will make for interesting viewing for the Town constituents informing them of some of the hi-tech successful business that call Ayer their home.

Facilitated the due diligence for the Optometrics loan whose loan was approved by the IDFA and is to be closed in June (\$200,000) (10 to 15 new employees once new equipment is fully operable)

Continue to complete follow-up questions relative to Green Communities yearly report – Completed and submitted quarterly report-continue to pursue additional rebates and incentives from National Grid. The downtown street lights and the thermostat controls for Town Hall received rebate incentives.

Completed additional drafts of Fire Station Reuse proposal – submitted to Fire Station Committee and Town Administrator for comments and it was submitted to the BOS for input as well

This Office continues to try and make contact with other drug store companies (Rite Aid and Walgreens) and have left messages with the real estate contact for Market Basket, Michael Kenback. No response at this time. Work continues on the Business Directory and the new business marketing material

I was invited to be a conference speaker by DHCD at the recent state-wide DHCD conference held at Devens Conference Center. I gave a fifteen minute talk with Q & A about all the successful projects Ayer has had in its Downtown area recently and over the years. It was well received by the organizers and participants.

Business Update for the Industrial, Commercial, Retail Areas of Town

New Business in Town:

Well known watercolor artist Harding Mudge Bush recently opened a new art shop in Phil Berry's block. Many of his paintings feature famous scenes and locations in and around Ayer.

There has been many inquires for the former Brew Locker parcel on West Main. It appears realtor Mark McNaulty has a perspective client since a sale pending sign is currently being displayed. I had been in contact with a number of his perspective clients, so I've asked him to inform me who decided to purchase the property.

David J. Maher
Director, Economic and Community Development
Town of Ayer
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