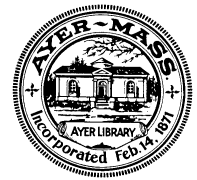


Town of Ayer

Office of Community & Economic Development

Town Hall ♦ One Main Street ♦ Ayer, MA 01432 ♦ 978-772-8206 ♦ Fax: 978-772-8208



Department Report Month(s) September/October

Meetings/Day (Particular Interest)

(2) MEDC meetings and one full day conference, (3) Meetings with MART/MRPC representatives to discuss purchase of Berry property, (2) meetings with Mr. Berry, (32 IDFA meetings for business loans, (2) meetings with 3 Rivers Arts Council for possible art show and sale in Great Hall, Chamber Ambassador tour of Downtown businesses, EDIP(pertaining to TIF information) and DHCD(pertaining to regional grant)Worcester, (3) meetings (days and night) to discuss Ayer/Shirley regional grant, (3) visit to completed CDBG project properties, (1) Regional Eco-Dev meeting North Central Chamber (1) Chamber Breakfast Meeting at New England Studios, productive face-to-face meeting with one of the owners, (2) Ducharme and Dillis Surveying Company for Depot Square

Meetings/ Night (Particular Interest)

(2) BOS meetings – Business Certificate update, (1) TIF Committee meeting

Downtown/Main Street Activities

Originally scheduled for Oct 5th, it was cancelled due to impending rain and rescheduled for Oct 26 to coincide with the Ayer Business Alliance Halloween Trick or Treat Day. Due to new Depot Square size restraints, a full complement of vendors (35) setup and the activities of the Businesses Alliance Trick or Treat day did work well with the Yard Sale. With the much appreciated help of Ed Kelley, (28) new fall street banners were raised along Main Street, mixing with a few from past years. Downtown hanging plants were maintained till the end of October.

Meetings w/ perspective business clients and Downtown project principals

(3) meetings Kim Becker formalizing new marketing material which is nearly complete and ready to be printed, (2) IDFA meetings to finalize upcoming loan considerations for Optometrics and Nashoba Restaurant, (1) Info financial meeting with Nashoba Valley Medical Center expansion team, (1) Meeting multiple conversations with new owner of the former Brew Locker and adjacent house properties (1) meetings with John Hillier relative to his medical marijuana facility, (3) meetings with Tom Sylvester and one site visit to Shaker Hill pertaining to ADA compliance to site new signs on surrounding major roads for the country club.

Department and Town-Wide Projects (Priority Projects)

The Office of Economic Development in conjunction with the Town's Cable Network APAC is completing the video production for two companies here in Town, Medical Innovations and Advanced Vacuum Systems. Production is nearly complete of two short videos about their businesses. Facilitated the closing of the Historic Preservation agreement for the Fletcher Building and am currently involved with finalizing the same for the Pleasant Street School Housing facility.

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

Submitted new \$20,000 fire station project for the Green Communities grant with help from Town Administrator and Facilities Manager, Continue to complete follow-up questions relative to Green Communities yearly report. Completed and submitted third quarter report-continue to pursue additional rebate from National Grid.

Real estate activity along the Downtown corridor has been very active in the past two months. Activities include:

- 1) Recent meeting and phone calls from well- known small department store chain – contacted owners of possible sites, submitted to contact – follow up calls and strong local interest
- 2) Sale of Mill Street Asian Market and possible location of new Subway on that site- in contact with both principals
- 3) Organized meeting between KFC building owner and viable outside restaurant group
- 4) Involved with a number of perspective clients for the former O' Hanlons – close contact with the owner and local real estate brokers
- 5) Multiple meetings with owner of former church/temple on Pleasant street- working through ADA compliant issues at this time
- 6) Strong activity and interest for the other 1200 sq. ft. of space in the Fletcher building. Currently working with two different clients who are vying to close with owner
- 7) Current golf pro looking to locate shop and training here in Town- helping with siting and relative planning issues.

Work continues on the Business Certificate list, Business Directory and the new business marketing material all to be completed in the next few weeks.

This office organized and sent a 180 address business mailing to solicit interest in the Town's Adopt An Area Project (AAA) and for support of the Town's Rotary holiday decorations. There has been interest in both at this time.

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

New Business in Town:

The Owens Jacob all inclusive salon celebrated its grand opening and the new shop has been very active with new customers – providing multiple spa type services

David J. Maher
Director, Economic and Community Development
Town of Ayer
November 7, 2013