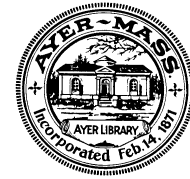


Town of Ayer

Office of Community & Economic Development

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



Economic Development Update

For

Month of October, 2014

Areas of Concentration

Ayer Rotary Area

Projects to include

- 6.2 acres located along Ayer toward Harvard – Continue to be in contact with the Real Estate Broker – They are still actively looking for a “big box” tenant but property owners continue to “lean” toward leasing the current building and holding out for larger company
- Wendy’s – Construction to commence early spring 2015 –continue to monitor activity for this building through Building Official’s office
- Taco Bell – Building is under full scale renovation – employment solicitations have been posted – made a number of attempts to contact corporate to get opening day information – nothing received yet
- Global Fuel and Convenience Location – I was be in attendance at the Zoning Meeting for the Global requests – due to some negative comments from the Zoning Board and neighbors, Global rescinded their original requests and will be rescheduling with the Zoning board in the near future.

Downtown

- Available property – Currently there are three locations available: Spaulding Building, 1200 sq.ft. rear of Fletcher Building, 600 sq. ft within the Berry Block
- New Subway is currently in the interior build-out process – I will monitor the BOH activities as the shop gets closer to opening - The owner has been soliciting for employees
- Renovation progress continues for the former O’Hanlon’s site for new New England Flat Bread and Ale House
- OpenAyer Fest – Oct. 3 and 4 – Even in spite of inclement weather on much of Saturday, there was a good turnout and the organizers are looking to do to other events in the early spring and summer
- Map and Legend of Downtown Services to be located at the Rail Trail for cyclers and walkers – Looking to locate a restaurant and services “legend” at the Rail Trail area to direct users to our in-town Facilities – the initial graphic layout has been completed – logistics of securing a decorative pole and placement is continuing
- Invited and participated in DPW/VHB meeting pertaining to Downtown corridor upgrades to sidewalk and street along those areas (E. Main, Main and W. Main)

Fitchburg Road 2-A

- New Family Dollar Department Store to be located at former car wash site – They were looking for a zoning variance to “soften” the parking requirements – Attended Oct. 8 zoning meeting and wrote a letter of support for their variance request. Request was granted.
- Pan Am Railways VP Mr. Bergeron met with the owners of the Merrimac Warehouse to discuss additional Rail Service – meeting very productive - met twice with warehouse owner and discussed activities with MBTA as well

West Main Road

- Brighter Horizons new company office – Building nearing completion for new company headquarters – Building has been hooked to the local gas infrastructure
- Devens Shopping Plaza Sandy’s Smoke Shop opened – working on signage issues with owner and the other individual owners of the plaza

Industrial Area Companies

- Attended and participated in meeting called by Building Official, Gabe Vellante to discuss National Grid request to site some new and updated buildings on their currently Westford Road location
- Updated directory signage for the former Horizon Mills that is now referred to as the Ardent Company. Removed, reprinted and reattached signage directing trucks and visitor to the plant

Additional Activities

- Very active CDGB activities in preparation for the submission of an application for upcoming 2015 grant – Spoke on behalf of the program to: CPC and Board of Health Boards
- Help to coordinate group breaking for the Habitat for Humanity house and program on Central Avenue (Oct. 6th)
- Organized all Maker Space activities with second group meeting on Oct. 14 here in the Town Hall Great Hall – core group increased two fold -- looking for usable space to begin to hold one
- Attended and spoke at Fall Town Meeting on comments and issues in support of the Habitat for Humanity project
- Facilitating and coordinating the activities associated with the sale of the former First Station – conversations and meetings with new owner, his partner and their lawyer Project is moving along

David Maher
Director, Economic and Community Development
Town of Ayer
Town Administrator Monthly Report
October 2014