

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (EDAC)

The 15-member Economic Development Advisory Council, established in 2009, represents a broad-based group of Milford citizens and business owners working to strengthen and retain the existing business and commercial base in Town and encourage opportunities for new economic growth. The Council was given the charge by the Board of Selectmen to:

"...develop and recommend economic development policy in accordance with the goals of the Milford Board of Selectmen and Milford Master Plan, and utilizing the report Recommendations to Foster Economic Development in Milford dated June 8, 2009, facilitate the economic development goals, recommendations, and actions at the direction of the Board of Selectmen."

EDAC develops its annual goals and projects from economic development objectives identified in the 2009 Recommendations to Foster Economic Development in Milford, Report to the Milford Board of Selectmen and Planning Board. This past year the Economic Development Advisory Council had several areas it focused its efforts. An early priority was to strengthen our membership. We welcomed several new members to our group as we have had a few members who served their terms and decided to step down.

Before the 2014 Town vote, EDAC showed its support for various warrant articles by drafting a letter for the voter's guide. The emphasis of our support was placed on articles that would help to support infrastructure improvements which in turn would enhance the quality of life for residents here in Milford.

The Economic Development Community Input Survey, which was developed in 2013, was finalized and results distributed in 2014. The input from the survey conveyed many opinions but most notably that we recognize the need to invest in our community and infrastructure without compromising the small town character that our community embraces.

Finally, EDAC along with the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce and with support from the Towns of Milford and Amherst is participating in the UNH Business Retention and Expansion Program. This program was designed by experts in the area of community development as well as with the UNH Extension Service. This collaborative effort is designed to help understand the local business' viewpoint on the economy through personal one-on-one visits between the BR&E members and business owners, with the goals being to understand local business relationships with the economy, identify concerns related to economic development, and then maintain these channels of communication to promote our local businesses. The program will see another round of personal visits in early 2015 followed by results being distributed and analyzed.

As EDAC moves forward in 2015, we are focused on continuing to follow our charge and facilitate economic development in our community. Communication between the various town departments has proven to be paramount. Another important role for EDAC has been to express its support for what we feel as important projects in our community such as the Elm Street water line extension and the continuing upgrades at the Pine Valley Mill. If at any time additional information is needed, please contact Bill Parker, Community Development Director at 249-0620 or <http://www.milford.nh.gov/town/boards-committees-and-commissions/community-development/economic-development-advisory-council> or any EDAC member.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Ciardelli
Chairman, Economic Development Advisory Council