

EDAB: results and proposed agenda for 2017- 2018



North Kingstown Economic Development Advisory Board
February 13, 2017

Outline

- Results 2015-2016
- Proposed agenda 2017-2018:
 - Ongoing work
 - Follow up
 - New initiatives

EDAB duties

- Monitor and report on economic development
- Advise on economic development policy and implementation
- Collaborate with town management
- Engage the public
- Respond to Town Council requests

Results 2015-2016

Advised the Town Council on economic development policy

- Roadmap for economic development support and staffing - matrix
- National Grid easement as constraint on Post Road development
- Harnessing Quonset for Post Road revival
- Wickford waterfront development
- Town beach master plan

Collaborated with town management and staff

- Extension of library park and location of rune stone
- Post Road improvements
- Climate change and resilience
- Comprehensive plan
- Building guidelines for Brown Street

Engaged the public

- Wickford Walking Workshop
- Wickford EI redevelopment
- Annex and Wickford Art Association
- Conserving Brown Street character
- Town Hall futures

Proposed agenda 2017-2018: Ongoing work

Resolve issue of National Grid easement along Post Road

- The easement is one of the main impediments to revitalizing the Post Road corridor
- Local attempts at resolution have been exhausted
- Town officials and staff are making progress at statewide political level
- EDAB will continue to monitor and stimulate the process as necessary

Harness Quonset for Post Road revival

- NK is missing opportunities to capture the economic development potential of Quonset Business Park
- Half a billion payroll dollars flow away from North Kingstown annually on Route 403 – and are growing
- Mixed use high density housing development along Post Road would capture some of these dollars in property taxes and commerce – and restore Post Road as a living community
- EDAB is assessing the potential impact on the town's economy and finances of attracting Quonset employees to live along Post Road

Preserve Brown Street character

- Wickford's fragile commercial center has ebbed and flowed for hundreds of years
- Sewers will help end current decline
- Responsible commercial growth honoring Wickford's past needs to be encouraged
- Blanket historic zoning would not achieve this
- EDAB will help build consensus on how Brown Street should look for the next 100 years, and develop implementation tools

Proposed agenda 2017-2018: Follow-up

Review economic development support matrix

- Matrix remains largely valid
- Identify priorities for further implementation:
- Improve public access to information and manage website content
- Promote North Kingstown as a good place to do business, visit and live

Implement town beach master plan

- Master plan approved 09/2016
- Town will seek CRMC approvals
- EDAB will resume community involvement
- Support fund raising

Develop Wickford's privileged waterfront location

- Concept note 01/2015
- Wickford Walking Workshop 01/2015
- Rune stone placed in extended Old Library Park
- Annex building is now available for repurposing
- EDAB will update concept note
- Propose implementation strategy

Proposed agenda 2017-2018: New initiatives

Find opportunities to use town real estate for economic development

- The town owns about 1,400 acres of land, of which one-half is listed as vacant
- EDAB is reviewing the town's real estate portfolio to identify holdings with economic development value
- Propose how the town can realize this value

Monitor economic development

- Help the town formulate an economic development program and metrics
- Annually review and report on program implementation
- Recommend program adjustments as needed

Facilitate planning for historic buildings

- North Kingstown is accumulating vacant historic buildings without a plan for their use or disposition
- Tax payers are unlikely to support preserving even one building without a clear path forward for all
- Distilling a single vision for the future seat of the town's government is the starting point
- EDAB can lead and provide a forum to help develop consensus on a viable solution