

To: Matt Vincent, Chairman BoS

From: Philip Trapani, BoS

Date: December 6, 2007

Subject: Goal Statement – Board of Selectman Strategic Initiatives 2008

## **Begin Implementing Recommendations of Georgetown Master Plan – Section 4 Economic Development**

### **Creation of an Economic Development Committee**

#### **VISION STATEMENT – GEORGETOWN MASTER PLAN JUNE 2007**

**Georgetown remains a predominantly residential and family-oriented community with a semi-rural, small town identity.** Through careful planning, the Town has retained much of the visual character of its rural heritage of fields and woods balanced by a lively historic downtown and a small sector of clean industry. Georgetown has an involved, civic-minded population and an excellent school system. The Town has been successful in shaping change to protect its livability and natural beauty while accommodating growth and reflecting the community's essential values:

- The Natural and Cultural Heritage
- The Variety of Housing that Complements Town Character
- **Economic Development**
- Ease of Moving Around Town and
- Civic Strength: strong schools, community, & leadership

#### **4.14.1 Create Georgetown Economic Development Committee**

The Town should work with its local business alliance to establish an Economic Development Committee that is charged with creating/implementing an economic development strategy for Georgetown. The work program of this committee would commence by reviewing the town's zoning and tax policies, road improvement plans, and water/sewer expansion plans as they relate to Georgetown's ability to attract new businesses. The Economic Development

Committee would then need to work with the various municipal boards and departments to develop an economic development strategy for Georgetown. As part of an economic development strategy, the town should designate a staff person in town government to oversee economic development issues. One contact person is essential, as businesses usually demand immediate responses to questions or concerns.

**Responsible Entity:** The Economic Development Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Other responsible parties and participants:

- *Planning Board*
- *Finance Advisory Board*
- *Conservation Commission*
- *Zoning Board of Appeals*
- *Highway Department*
- *School Committee*
- *Merrimack Valley Planning Commission*
- *Massachusetts Economic Development Committee*
- *Several Other*

### **Economic Development Goals & Objectives**

- Ensure that new development in Georgetown is appropriate for a rural and suburban community.
- Encourage appropriate commercial and light industrial development in Georgetown, while protecting environmental quality and town resources,
- Guide the continued development of appropriate, efficient, and economical infrastructure for Georgetown including utilities, public safety, schools, and municipal water and sewer

### **Next Steps**

Proposed Committee Organization and Formation

### **Time Frame**

February, 2008

**Pros & Cons** –if we do all this right, we will increase revenues to the town. But more than that, if we pursue this path, the type of Georgetown we want will be more likely and attainable. If we don't –if we continue business as usual- we will not only continue to suffer stagnant growth revenues, we will realize something worse. The alternative to good planning and smart growth is not a lack of development, it's bad development. Keep in mind, this is a long-term initiative.