

TOWN OF GEORGETOWN COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Town of Georgetown recognizes that the business community is vital to the Town, both as a source of basic goods and services and as a major factor in improving the quality of life in the Town. With unreliable State Aid contribution payments, our limitation to raise taxes in Town above 2 ½ percent and the fact that 91% of our tax revenue is paid by the residential community, it is critical we begin a thoughtful, rigorous and result driven economic development program to attract and retain businesses. That said, the Town must ensure that any new development is appropriate for a rural and suburban community by encouraging appropriate commercial and light industry development, while protecting environmental quality and town resources. The Town should also guide the continued development of appropriate, efficient, and economical infrastructure for Georgetown including utilities, public safety, schools, and municipal water and sewer. The residents' desire to maintain Georgetown's small town character makes it necessary to have a strong strategic plan, smart growth and to take action implementing many of the recommendations that have been developed and documented in our Master Plan. In addition, residents also agree that goods and services, such as health care and other professional services and shopping and dining options, must remain more locally accessible.

The creation of a Community and Economic Development Committee within the Town Government is seen as an excellent means for the Town to work with the business community to ensure that the needs and expectations of Town residents are met.

PURPOSE

The purpose of a Community and Economic Development Committee is to assist the Town Government and Town residents in ensuring the community and economic health of the Town, including such matters as:

- A. Infill, redevelopment or adaptive reuse of existing commercial space in Town, by determination of which businesses and services the Town residents most desire, review of the feasibility of such businesses existing in Town, and active solicitation of such businesses.
- B. Review and implementation of measures that can be taken to ensure the survival and success of existing businesses in Town. Such measures include recommendations to the zoning, subdivision, wetlands or other land use regulation amendments.
- C. Development of strategies for promotion of the Town, both to prospective businesses (retail, light manufacturing, professional and other) and to prospective customers (such as visitors).
- D. Provide recommendations to the Town Government on refinement and implementation of the 2007 Georgetown Master Plan and monitoring that Town commercial growth is both sustainable and directed to meeting clearly stated objectives for the growth.
- E. Act as a liaison between the Town Government, regional planning agencies and the business community.

ORGANIZATION

1. Formation. The Committee will be known as the Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC).
2. Term of Existence. The CEDC will have a perpetual term. However, the Town Board of Selectmen may terminate the existence or modify the rules of the CEDC at any time.
3. Composition. The CEDC will be composed of seven members, all of whom will be selected by the Town Selectmen, and a staff representative from the Town. Two members shall be current landowners, whether residents of the Town or not; two members will be drawn from members of the business community; and three members will be drawn from the Town government, such as members of other committees or commissions. Of the seven members, only one member shall be associated with any single business.
4. Terms of CEDC Members. Members of the CEDC will serve two-year terms. The initial members of the CEDC will be divided between one group of five members who will have a two-year term and one group of two members who will have a one-year term. Thereafter, all members of the CEDC will serve two-year terms.
5. Vacancies. Vacancies will be filled by the Town Selectmen. If any member of the CEDC fails to attend three successive meetings, without approval from the Chairman of the CEDC, such member's position will be considered vacant.

OPERATION

1. Officers. The CEDC will have a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Chair will preside at all meetings of the CEDC, sign all formal documents on behalf of the CEDC, and act as the liaison between the CEDC and the Town. The Vice Chair will act in the Chair's place when the Chair is unavailable. The CEDC will maintain an accurate record of its proceedings and preserve its records, documents, and communications.
2. Meetings. Regular meetings of the CEDC will be held at such time as designated by the members of the CEDC. Special meetings may be called by the Chair, the Town Selectmen, or upon the request of four members of the CEDC. At all meetings, a majority will constitute a quorum. The meetings of the CEDC will be governed by and conducted according to the latest rules of Robert's Rules of Order Revised
3. Finances. The CEDC will be funded by appropriations from the Town (as available) and donations from outside sources. The CEDC will provide the Town Commissioners with a proposed budget of estimated income and expenditures for the coming year by no later than the Town Selectmen's first meeting in the month of February each year. No obligation or expense will be incurred without prior approval of the CEDC.
4. Rules. The CEDC will adopt such other and further rules for its governance and engage in such activities as may be necessary or advisable to effectuate its purpose.