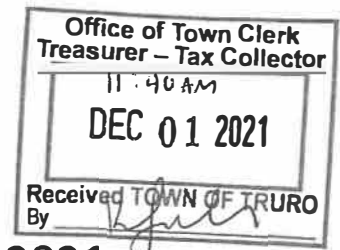


FINAL  
~~DRAFT~~



## Economic Development Meeting October 14, 2021

Members Present: Robert Panessiti, Chair, Nancy Medoff, Kristen Roberts, Chris DeMarco  
Others: Barbara Carboni, Truro Town Planner

The minutes for the meeting of September 23, 2021, were approved with an amendment to note the committee is seeking to fill the remaining vacancy with consideration for a diversified body.

The motion was made by Ms. Medoff and seconded by Ms. Roberts; the motion carried by a vote of 3-0-0.

New member Chris Demarco was introduced and spoke about his background and willingness to serve.

The charge of the Committee was reviewed along with that of the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee (LCPC). The role of consulting firm of Tighe and Bond was discussed; it was asked what resources they would be providing. The Committee requested that a representative be present at our next meeting.

Ms. Carboni had circulated some sample economic development plans from other towns. Members of the Committee liked the format and content of the town of Bourne and Berlin plans.

Ms. Medoff suggested the consultant help gather data in order to create a SWAT analysis.

The Chair asked how we determine the content and compiling of the report and what are the roles and responsibilities. How to gather public/citizen and Stake Holder input. The current survey being administered by the LCPC was discussed and the Chair suggested that in anticipation of the survey results we establish some goals and begin identifying resources and determine and gather data.

Ms. Medoff requested we take the list of businesses in Truro and break them down by industry. Ms. Roberts had gathered some data from the Truro Chamber of Commerce that could be used as a starting point. Ms. Medoff and Ms. Roberts offered to work together and refine the list of business to include industry and other characterizations.

Ms. Medoff expressed her opinion that public forums and one on one conversations with stakeholders would be more valuable than a general survey. Ms. Carboni asked the Committee to think about any specific stakeholders they would like to speak with.

Ms. Carboni mentioned survey conducted in 2019, might provide some useful demographic data. It was noted that the data wouldn't be available until early 2022. Ms. Medoff noted that the survey may not reflect the population shift experienced as a result of COVID.

Ms. Carboni remarked that the Committee has asked if there are any Town Hall Initiatives. A Childcare Capital Program and the Establishment of a Cultural District were discussed. The Chair remarked that we need to identify what the immediate needs of the community are and how do we dedicate resources. Ms. Roberts expressed a desire to understand why people have left the community and how do we stop it. Ms. Medoff stated that we really need more current hard data to make decisions and recommendations which should include why people chose not to come to Truro for employment or to open a business. Ms. Roberts stated that we should develop some action items that administratively could be more efficient for business owners. She cited some examples around annual license renewals that are cumbersome.

Mr. Demarco expressed his opinion that the high-cost housing is a central issue that should be addressed. Businesses won't come if the people aren't there to staff and support it. He suggested that the Committee each think about three things that would keep people in Truro and three items that will attract people to Truro. Ms. Carboni will send the charge to Committee Members.

The Chair suggested that we identify and break down sections of a sample economic development plan and begin to compile data in an organized manner. Ms. Medoff stated that we should look at some "quick Hits" that the town can improve on quickly, such as improving permit renewal process.

Action steps for the next meeting:

- Ms. Roberts and Ms. Medoff will provide a list of business with industry identification.
- The Chair asked if we could review usage data from COA, Recreation, etc., to determine what the demographics look like and what services are being utilized.
- It was agreed that we should request that Tighe and Bond, the consultant to the LCPC, be present at our next meeting.
- Committee Members bring three ideas each for what would keep and attract people to town.
- Begin discussing in detail current financial and investment strategies, business development strategies, infrastructure strategies.
- Committee members think about organizing a public forum to gather information from the community.
- Next meeting date of Friday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 am; tentative additional meeting on December 2, at 9:30 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43am.

