



Town of Wenham

Town Hall
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Selectmen / Town Administrator
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Selectmen
FROM: Peter Lombardi, Town Administrator
RE: Proposed Amendment to Economic Development Committee Charge
DATE: October 28, 2016

The Board approved a charge for the new Economic Development Committee in September. At that time, the Board agreed that the Committee would be comprised of up to seven members, serving one-year terms, and subject to reappointment by the Board of Selectmen. The Board then appointed seven individuals to serve on the Committee at your October 18 meeting.

It was brought to my attention shortly thereafter that one such member, Norman Tarr, is not a Wenham resident. As you may recall, Town Meeting approved a new bylaw last year (Ch XXVII) that generally prohibits non-residents from serving on any Town boards or committees. There are a few limited restrictions to this prohibition, including allowing non-residents to participate as non-voting members. In conferring with Mr. Tarr about this option, he expressed that he would still be interested in serving even if it would be in a non-voting capacity. The Board would have to amend the charge to allow for this revised arrangement.

In addition, the Board had asked me to reach out to David Reid to solicit a formal letter of interest to serve on this Committee. He is unable to serve at this time due to work commitments that preclude his active participation in the work of this Committee.

For your reference, the Committee's charge is listed below:

- Work with the Open Space and Recreation Committee as they develop their action plan to implement the Goals and Objectives identified in the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), by providing recommendations on the financial viability of preserving priority parcels and identifying funding sources and scenarios.
- Based on the findings of the OSRP, work with the Open Space and Recreation Committee, Board of Selectmen, and other relevant Town boards, commissions, and committees to identify properties that are better suited for development than preservation and formulate a policy framework and strategic plan to address these opportunities.

- Establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue with business owners and owners of major properties on a pro-active basis to understand how the Town can work with them to achieve their plans.
- Provide advice and recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding the viability of various economic development projects, including but not limited to the feasibility of installing cellphone towers on town property, the proposed disposition of town-owned property, and the potential development of the Boulder Lane property.