

## **Livelihood/Commerce Work Group Core**

Meeting Notes of November 8, 2006, 4:00 pm, Cronig's Market

---

Present - Members: John Abrams (Chair), Jim Athearn, Sherm Goldstein, Sean Welch, Linda Sibley, Steve Bernier, Sandy Ray, Phil Hare, Pat Gregory

Present – MVC Staff: Mark London, Christine Flynn

Present – Others: Mimi Davisson

### **1. Meeting Notes**

The following corrections were made to the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting notes. *Who Else Do We Need to Reach Out To?* should include the cultural community (theater, dance, etc.). The additional items of *What Else Do We Need to Know* is added to the list discussed on October 11.

### **2. Priority Issues and Trends**

The following issues and trends should be tracked in the future.

- Who are the seasonal residents and what do we have to do to keep them coming?
- What will the impact be of an aging population and an increasing number of retirees?
- How can we attract and retain skilled labor?
- What is the impact of growing on-line capabilities?
- How can business deal with demographic change?
- What are the impacts of transportation of people and freight to and from the Island?
- What other economic issues are related to being separated from the mainland?
- As we run out of available land, will there be a decline in the construction industry or will reconstruction and remodeling replace new development on virgin land? If there is a decline, what will the impacts be?
- What is the economic impact of seasonal residents and retirees who spend their pensions on island
- What are the local impacts of spending versus leakage off-Island? What is the profile of the transient workforce?
- What is the cost of living / market basket?
- Can we improve job development and creation?
- How can we educate people about the economic underpinnings of our quality of life?
- Can schools provide more vocational education related to on-island jobs?
- How much food and energy is and can be produced locally?
- How does the wastewater infrastructure, or absence thereof, impact business?
- Where is business located – in town centers, in business areas, or dispersed in residential and rural areas?

- What is the potential impact of chain stores, and institutions like the YMCA? What about Island chain stores like the Black Dog?
- What sectors of the economy provide the best employment opportunities in terms of wages, benefits, working conditions, satisfaction, compatibility with a good quality of life?
- What is the balance of trade by sector: leakage of money and money coming from off-Island?
- What sectors of the economy should be encouraged because they have the most positive benefits for the community and the lowest negative impacts?
- What sectors of the economy are most essential to the community?
- How can we promote sustainable tourism?

### **3. Meeting of the Full Work Group on November 15, 2006**

The aim is to have a range of topics, without attempting to be comprehensive. The break-out sessions will deal with the following. Two members of the Core group will participate in each session, one as a facilitator and one to take notes.

- A. The Cost of Doing Business on the Vineyard: How can we make it easier to do business? Regulatory impediments. Expenses. Other challenges. (Sherm, Christine)
- B. Post-Secondary Education: Are there opportunities to establish programs in the future? What can we learn from past efforts? (Pat, Mimi)
- C. Working on the Vineyard: How can we make it better for employees? A living wage. Benefits. Working conditions. Housing. (Steve, Sean)
- D. Think Globally, Act Locally: How can we take best advantage of global changes? (Phil, John)
- E. Producing and Buying Locally: What can we do to increase local production of food and energy, and to increase local buying? (Linda, Mark)

### **4. Scope of Work**

John reminded the group that we should be producing a work program describing how we will carry out the Work Group's mandate by next Spring.

### **5. Upcoming Meetings**

November 15, 5:30pm	Full L/C Work Group	MVC Offices
November 29, 4:00pm	L/C Core	Cronig's
November 30, 5:00pm	Steering Committee and L/C Core	to be determined
November 30, 7:30pm	Public Meeting – Michael Shuman	Katharine Cornell Theater
December 12, 4:00pm	L/C Core	Cronig's