



**Economic Development Subcommittee
Agenda & Meeting Packet
January 8, 2025**

Meeting will be held at the **Municipal Building**
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
355 East Central Street
5:45 PM

A NOTE TO RESIDENTS: All citizens are welcome to attend public meetings in person. **To view the live meeting remotely, citizens** are encouraged to watch the live stream on the [Franklin Town Hall TV YouTube channel](#) or the live broadcast on Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channel 29. Meetings are also archived by Franklin TV on the [Franklin Town Hall TV YouTube channel](#) and shown on repeat on Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channel 29 for those who miss the live meeting. **To listen to the meeting remotely** citizens may call-in using this number: 1-929-205-6099. This will not permit participation in the meeting. **To participate in the meeting remotely** citizens are able to join a [Zoom Webinar](#) using the information provided below.

- Zoom Webinar ID #890 5052 3175
- Zoom Webinar Link [HERE \(https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89050523175\)](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89050523175)
- **Any participants who wish to speak** during the webinar must enter their **full name and email address** when joining the webinar.
- All participants will be automatically muted upon joining the webinar. In order to speak, participants - who have entered full name and email address - will need to select the "Raise Hand" function to request to be unmuted.
- All speakers will be required to state their full name and street address before commenting.

Agenda:

1. [Review and Discuss 2024-2025 Goals Update](#)

This is a meeting of the Franklin Town Council Sub-Committee; under the Open Meeting Law, this subcommittee is a separate "public body" from the Town Council. Therefore, unless the Town Council has separately notified and posted its own meeting, Councilors who are not members of this subcommittee will not be permitted to speak or otherwise actively participate @ this meeting, although they may attend and observe. This prohibition is necessary to avoid the potential for an Open Meeting Law Violation

2024-2025 EDC Goals

Last updated: January 8, 2025

The following are a list of proposed goals (not in any particular order) by the Town Council and Town Administrator for the 2024-2025 session.

Economic Development (To the EDC)

- Comply with the MBTA Communities law, including evaluating the potential of rezoning around Forge Park MBTA station.
 - **Complete. Staff are awaiting formal certification from the state, as well as the pending decision before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.**
- Monitor statewide Housing Bond Bill & housing legislation relative to ADU's.
 - **In process. The EDC had a short overview of the Affordable Homes Act and passed an ADU bylaw to comply with state law. We expect this to be fully complete in early 2025. The Administration **drafted a letter to the Executive Branch** to formally request that the \$3 million **Franklin Ridge Housing Bond Bill Appropriation in An Act Relative to the Affordable Homes Act** be included in any upcoming authorization by the state.**
- Support and codify a grease trap bylaw with the Board of Health and Sewer Department.
 - **Complete.**
- Discuss a 40R Bylaw.
 - **In process. The concept has been discussed at several EDC meetings.**
- Prioritize and/or implement recommendations from the Housing Production Plan, Franklin For All Study and townwide Master Plan (pending approval of the Master Plan by the Planning Board).
 - **In process. The Town Master Plan Committee is wrapping up its work expected to be considered for final approval in the early part of 2025. The EDC will then prioritize the next set of projects.**
- Execute Phase 1 of the branding & marketing analysis, including a refresh of the town and school websites, new Town logo design along with brand guidelines and templates, and a cleanup of the Town seal.
 - **In process. A new town logo is officially approved and the Town Seal is NOT being replaced. The school website is currently live. The new Town website will go live on January 21, 2025!**
- Continue to research and discuss a home occupation business bylaw.
 - **No formal action yet.**
- Research zoning relative to shared kitchen spaces.
 - **No formal action yet.**
- Review and approve the Franklin Crossing Neighborhood zoning district (C-1).
 - **No formal action yet.**
- Collaborate with FPS, local, regional and statewide stakeholders to prepare for and market Franklin for the World Cup when it arrives in 2026 in Foxborough.
 - **In process. Staff are forming an internal World Cup Welcoming and Ambassador Committee and are working with the state and local stakeholders. More to come this Spring!**

Other Accomplishments

The following are other great economic development accomplishments that were not on the official goals list:

- Authorization for financing and a purchase and sale for the SNETT Trail Corridor section between Grove Street and Unions Street. The Town Administrator and CSX will submit the required documents to the Surface Transportation Board.
- The Town successfully rezoned “the Mill Store” property to enhance a rehabilitation of that parcel for housing and restaurants (and also adjacent to the future SNETT trailhead)
- Hosted an informative discussion with the Franklin Children’s Museum.
- Initiated zoning bylaw clean ups to help businesses Commercial-2, Business and Office districts around Exit 17 to install LED signs.
- Adopted a Friendly 40B project to help ease the affordable housing crisis with a smart growth friendly project at 444 East Central Street (aka Stobbart’s).
- Authorized the Town Administrator and the Town Council to send a letter to the legislature and Governor Healey in support of the Municipal Empowerment Act.
- Authorized the Town Administrator to write a letter to the legislature on behalf of Franklin TV & Radio in support of Senate Bill 2771 and House Bill 4631 entitled ***An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming.***
- Numerous Arts, Culture, and Economic Development partnerships including MA 250 programming, “Sip, Shop, Stroll” and “A Wreath-a Franklin” events, Sculpture Park enhancements, an MBTA/Dean College mural collaboration, and a Franklin First Gift Card revamp.