

Economic Development Report

Western and Central Mass

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May 1, 1981

Meetings:

Worcester Resource Recovery Committee, Chaired by the LWM, to map out a strategy to reverse the city council vote taken last December to block the Norton Resource Recovery Plant. Meeting was held at the Greater Worcester Chamber (4/29)

Bill Short, Exec. Dir. of the Worcester Chamber, to discuss possible ways of establishing an export trading company as a branch of the WBDC. We are following-up with legislation and the Dept. of Commerce with Bob Barbera. (4/29)

Mayor Bob Kumor who would like a meeting with PT soon. (4/29)

Tom Habberlin, CD Director for Chicopee, to discuss plans in Chicopee (with Westover, etc.) and notes on Westfield. (4/29)

Clark House Opening (Amherst) MHFA elderly and handicapped. (4/23)

U. Mass Business School Capstone course in Public Management (I was the guest speaker.) (4/23)

Don St. Pierre, who now is the new director of the Berkshire Hills (4/22)

Jim Cope, Planner for Amherst (4/28)

Dave Pynchon, outgoing Director of the Museum of Science (4/22)

Bob McKay, Exec. Dir. of CHAPA, re housing priorities in Congress. He would like to see some language added to earmark some of the money for PHA operating subsidies for energy conservation and consumption monitoring. (4/22)

Roger Paradis re his plans for business development and info on energy tax credits for commercial businesses. (4/11)

ACT RE: a plan to develop the Garden Theater with assistance from the local financial institutions, town CDBG funds, and ACT. The Community College and local arts groups should also contribute. (4/6)

Dave Musante and the Northampton Development Corporation on the closing of the Northampton Hotel and the announcement of the EDA 304 grant to provide parking in the Round House Development (4/10)

Major Projects:

The Worcester/ Norton resource recovery plant is under review of a committee made up of a cross section of individuals chaired by the LWV. Norton seems favorably disposed towards a remote refuse collection center (perhaps in Millbury) with the highly burnable waste separated and trucked to Norton. This option requires further consideration. Norton is also looking at coal. The base-line option (the complete plant at Norton) is still an option but will require a major organizational effort to sell the public (i.e. the council). A second meeting is to be held Wednesday, May 6.

The Wang UDAG application has been submitted. Cong. Conte is handling his office's involvement personally. The UDAG has been structured with a pay-back to the Old Holyoke Development Corp. which has completed much of the housing rehab in the city.

With the 304 award to Northampton, the NDC is moving ahead on a closing of the Round House. The \$200,000 award will pay for aquasition and preparation of the parking for the development.

No further word on the Garden St. Theater in Greenfield.