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For Master Plan: Seymour EDC Awards Contract

By: Joey Duff

SEYMOUR - The Economic Development Commission awarded a \$45,000 contract for the town's newest proposed 10-year Municipal Master Economic Development Plan to Mt. Auburn Associates of Somerville, Mass. According to EDC Chairman Jon Szuch, the seven to eight-month project will provide Seymour with a blue print to serve as a guide for the next decade.

"It will reveal the town's strengths, voids and requirements across the board on economics, commercial-retail development through a fair and balanced approach," said the chairman.

The EDC's recommendation was ratified by the Board of Selectmen at last week's meeting and an award letter was sent to the Massachusetts-based company from First Selectman Robert Koskelowski.

The project is expected to begin in November once the contract has been signed.

Also on the EDC plate is finalizing the first Town of Seymour EDC questionnaire.

Slated to be mailed to all tax-paying homes and businesses in Seymour in October and November, the questionnaire is designed to obtain opinions, answers and basic feedback on various topics concerning the town and its residents.

"The questionnaire will provide insight and guidance to the EDC as we continue to engage Seymourites in the process of developing their own town path-forward," said Mr. Szuch.

The EDC may be seeking volunteers to insert and seal envelopes for mail-outs. Interested person may contact Town Hall to leave a message with the secretaries.

Other EDC projects scheduled for 2006-07 are a Seymour Economic Development/Local Business Establishment Informational Gathering to hear thoughts, needs and concepts of local businesses in town, and another exploratory concept: a Downtown Seymour Aesthetic Design Program.

Chairman Szuch told Voices that the Seymour EDC will work in 2007 on a new EDC brochure package to be mailed to developers, retailers and entrepreneurs.

"The Seymour EDC's mission is to continue to propel Seymour path-forward into a 21st century economy by assisting in providing municipal financial stability through the attraction of businesses to our town," he said.