

West Boylston's Economic Development Task Force (EDTF) was established in 2005 and is committed to improving the business climate in Town.

Five Members: Chair John Hadley, Christopher Rucho ex officio, Maryann Schelin, Barbara Wyatts, and Marc Frieden.

EDTF members meet monthly or bi-monthly as needed

**Our Mission** is to develop a stronger tax revenue stream from the commercial sector without sacrificing West Boylston's ecology and character. EDTF strives to revitalize the business districts and other commercial districts, in order to protect property values and retain our current commercial base. EDTF acknowledges the important contribution of West Boylston's business community to our Town's economic sustainability and maintains a strong and lasting relationship between Town government and the commercial sector.

**EDTF Three Aims:**

- To provide employment opportunities
- To provide goods and services
- To grow and diverse the tax base

The Massachusetts Economy is strong. There are wonderful employment opportunities available to West Boylston residences in a wide range of professionals and sectors. Good and services are available online or a short driving distance away.

**Key Findings and Challenges:**

The TIF agreement was accomplished in a relatively short amount of time to ensure Curtis Industries moving into Town. The ETA program and the Massachusetts Economic Development Incentive program (EDIP) used solid incentives to stimulate job creation, attract new businesses, encourage the expansion of existing businesses and assist in infrastructure improvements. (ETA) program offers substantial financial incentives to businesses expanding or locating in designated ETA's, including investment tax credits, building and municipal tax incentives, substantial property tax savings and more.

West Boylston attracts Business because of it's Low Single Tax Rate compared to other surrounding Towns. Consisting mostly of Residential, West Boylston has a strong commercial base (retail) along Rte 12 and Industrial base (manufacturing) on Hartwell Street.

West Boylston currently has key challenges that will need to be addressed: parking, lack of sidewalks, easy access to highways from the industrial sectors, low grant creation and competing Towns that may have a location advantage more suitable for Businesses to access.

### **Moving Forward and Goals:**

Our Goal and Focus is to create our own economic destiny and pursue economic development. Growth responsibly will preserve our small town character, open space and natural resources. Establishing funding sources beyond taxes, grant awards and cost savings is the Key Focus of the Plan.