

Bedford Economic Development Commission Summary of Business Visitation Comments

Local Government Regulations:

- Noise Ordinance
- Permits
- Signage restrictions
- Town places limits on merchandising capabilities outside of the store
- Restrictions should be the same for all businesses: eliminate “Grandfather Clauses”

Types of businesses:

- Lack of fast food restaurants
- Office Space
- Technology industry
- Software industry
- Airport Access Road: Retail? Offices? Businesses? Financial

Economic Development Function: Options:

- FT Staff Member
 - o Would serve as an advocate for the business community
 - o Would act as a liaison between business and the town of Bedford.
 - o ED director should attend town meetings to speak on behalf of business.
- Communication would improve
- Bedford organization different from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce would be beneficial.
- BEDC should be different than a town sanctioned commission. Perhaps a 501 (c) (3).
- Function should be separate from the town in order to be a true advocate for businesses.
- Function is best served to be external and consisting of businesses

Strengths:

- Location, image, transportation
- Quality of development
- Services
- Demographics

Weaknesses:

- Town services to businesses
- Communication
- Lack of Economic Development direction,
- Consistency – Treating all businesses equally
- Lack of outreach to businesses
- Local Regulations
- More authority to the Planning Dept and Town Council on planning issues.
- Faster approval process needed
- Lack of public transportation

Opportunities:

- Airport Access Road
- BEDC
- Location, Location

Threats:

- State corporate tax Structure
- Economic Downturn
- Balancing Residential/commercial development needs
- Fast food restaurants

Summarized from Visitation comments

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Comments from all Outreach Forums (General, Retail, Development, Professional and Residential) have been summarized under separate cover.