**Minutes of Meeting of Rural Advisory Commission’s (RAC) Subcommittee on Economic Development**

July 24, 2017

10:45-12:00

Nantucket Planning and Conservation Office

Nantucket, MA

**Subcommittee members present**

Linda Dunlavy

Wendy Morton Hudson,

Bill Veno, by phone

**Also present**

Andrew Vorce, Nantucket Planning Director

Leslie Snell, Nantucket Assistant Planning Director

**Discussion of three topic areas and potential policy changes**

Sewer/Water and Title 5:

1. Tailor zoning to steer development into downtowns so expansion of sewer and water is not or less necessary. *How does this get implemented at RPAC level – is there a way to include some kind of requirement in Zoning Reform legislation? Or is it more of an educational issue – expand CPTC training series to include?*
2. Make green fields less desirable to develop. Maryland has implemented some kind of positive/negative reinforcement strategy that could be replicated. *Need to research MD example.*
3. Change DEP regulations so that businesses reliant on private wells can expand more easily before being designated a public water supply.

Small Business Support/Job Creation:

1. Enact legislation that taxes all on-line sales to even the playing field with brick and mortar businesses.
2. Revise Blue Laws to support small businesses – no time and a half requirement for businesses under “X” employees, exempt agricultural businesses? *Get research on this topic from Retailers Association.*
3. Include a provision in any legislation to increase minimum wage to exempt high school-aged workers and/or seasonal workers so small businesses can afford to hire young people (helps with workforce development too).
4. Increase tourism funding. Compare NY tourism funding to MA. Research whether NY has data on impact of recent funding expansion.
5. Anything that would better enable ag business diversification?
6. Support visa programs that allow seasonal workers. *Especially important to Cape and Islands. Other parts of MA?*
7. Make sure short-term rental regulations/legislation:
   1. Protects rental stock
   2. Allows seasonal rentals in tourism-intensive communities. Nantucket teachers often supplement salaries by renting their homes out for the summer.