

**Massachusetts Rural Policy Advisory Commission**  
**Report of the Economic Development Working Group Meeting**  
**September 30, 2016 – Truro Community Center, North Truro**

Attendance: Members Cariddi and Donlevy

Guests: Glen Ohlund, Director of Economic Development, Community Development Partnership;

Staff: Michael Benezra, Legislative Director

Remote participation policy was presented, discussed and voted to adopt.

Key issues

Discussion centered on the existence of two current rural economies. We agreed there is slow growth in our shrinking rural areas and fast growth in rural areas at the edge of our metro regions. And each requires different approaches to economic development.

Need to assist communities improve their development practices and meet local goals.

Economic development encompasses many realms.  
Regional economic opportunities; Broadband availability;  
Job creation and workforce issues; Transportation; Entrepreneurship.

Guests offered assistance to the working group as we develop and detail our tasks.

Research

Where are we currently? Need for some baseline data on regional rural assets. Meet regionally with local officials to hear their concerns.

Next Steps

Expand the Economic Development Working Group membership.  
Next meeting set for Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, noon, Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield

Committee adjourned 11am