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Oxford Business Association, Town of Oxford Conduct Economic Development and Infrastructure Forum; Town to apply for Sewer Infrastructure grant for Route 20; Town Manager sees diverse growth and businesses coming to Oxford

Oxford, MA. – The Oxford Business Association (OBA) and the Town of Oxford recently conducted an Infrastructure and Economic Development Forum. The forum included representatives from National Grid, Aquarion, and the Town of Oxford to discuss future development, infrastructure, and the expansion needs of the Oxford business community.

Oxford Town Manager Brian Palaia announced that the town will be pursuing a \$1 million MassWorks grant application to fund sewers

along Route 20. “There is an ongoing need for expanding sewer services to both existing and future new businesses along the Route 20 corridor. Last year, there was a double fatality and the state quickly constructed temporary improvements. The time line for the state to undertake a permanent solution, a \$25 to \$30 million project, is being accelerated. The town should therefore coordinate with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and extend sewers while it can. We will continue to explore other infrastructure needs and work with the utilities and business community to explore expansion of service to various Industrial zoned areas.”

“In addition, the town will be a beneficiary of the solar market created by federal incentives created for the industry. A few solar projects have been built, and the largest one in Massachusetts is currently under construction in Oxford. Therefore, the town will see healthy growth in equipment tax revenue. The town should also see some non-tax revenue growth through a host agreement with a medical marijuana dispensary. Applications for new small commercial and industrial businesses is steady, “stated Palaia.

Aquarion’s Director of Planning and Engineering Dan Lawrence outlined many of activities of Aquarion in the past year, including talks with Webster to potentially provide water to Industrial areas in South Oxford through an agreement with Aquarion. “Aquarion realizes that we are all on the same page: creation of jobs, growth, and development in Oxford. We look forward to cooperating with the Town of Oxford in coordinating road and infrastructure projects. No one likes to see roadways opened up more than once in a short time period. We look forward to continuing our assistance to the town as they explore growth opportunities.”

“We will continue conduct forums and public discussions such as this one in order to spark discussion amongst various interests and officials concerning infrastructure needs and economic development,” stated Lawrence S. Crowley, President of the Oxford Business Association. “On behalf of both its members and the entire business community, we will look forward to future growth in Oxford.

The Oxford Business Association is a local organization representing

the business community in Oxford since 1966. The OBA supports its members in growing their business in various ways. The OBA assists members on zoning and technical reviews. Much of the membership has been in town for many years and is very familiar with local ordinances. The OBA meets monthly at the Crowley Building on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

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