



Town of Needham, Massachusetts Media Release

Office of the Town Manager
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CONTACT

Cyndi Roy Gonzalez

croygonzalez@needhamma.gov

781-675-0394 (cell)

Needham Announces New Economic Development Manager

NEEDHAM – Monday, August 10, 2020 – Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick today announced that the Town has hired Amy Haelsen as Needham’s new Economic Development Manager to help coordinate the Town’s strategy for supporting and promoting economic development in Needham.

Haelsen comes to Needham from Dedham, where she has served as the Executive Director of the Dedham Square Circle – Downtown Revitalization Group since 2007.

“Needham is fortunate to have Amy joining our team,” Fitzpatrick said. “She’s had tremendous success in Dedham and is passionate about working with businesses and other stakeholders to execute an economic development strategy that ensures Needham remains an attractive place to work and live.”

As Executive Director of Dedham Square Circle, Haelsen has worked with business, community groups, elected officials and others to create and implement strategic economic development initiatives that have helped revitalize Dedham Square.

“I have followed the economic development activity in neighboring Needham for many years and I am excited by the opportunity to be directly involved with these efforts,” Haelsen said. “There are so many great companies big and small in Needham and I look forward to finding new, creative ways to ensure the long-term health and success of the local economy.”

In her position with the Dedham Square Circle, Haelsen planned and managed many annual community events and promotions and founded and managed the Dedham Farmer’s Market. She also developed a regional branding campaign to attract visitors to the newly-streetscaped Dedham Square.

In addition to coordinating the Town’s overall economic development strategy, Haelsen will serve as the liaison to the Council of Economic Advisors and help support and promote Needham’s business community through targeted marketing efforts. Amid the global COVID-19 pandemic, Haelsen will work with the business community to identify ways the Town can support the local economy so that businesses are able to emerge from the pandemic strong.

Haelsen previously held development and communications roles with Make-A-Wish of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

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