

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2009**

Present were Gus Lerandeau, Arthur Boufford, Eric Stanley, Bill Hutwelker, David Cairns. Also present were Town Planner Sara Carbonneau, Victoria Barlow, Selectman Debbie Davis and Chip Page (resident/concerned citizen).

Vice Chairman Gus Lerandeau called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Committee members reviewed the minutes of last meeting of November 9, 2009 voting to accept the minutes as written. .

EDAC Web Presence – Town staff has offered to help strengthen EDAC web presence as part of a planned upgrade to the town’s web site. Carbonneau and Barlow gave a presentation of the various custom designs available sharing their thoughts on colors and photos that could be used as part to the update. Carbonneau demonstrated for committee how easy it is to update the website and add side bars. Lerandeau asked how often updating takes place. Carbonneau stated that it is usually done 2-3 times a week as needed. Lerandeau asked what the cost would be to EDAC. Fox sought EDACs support for development of the business banner and section advising that \$500.00 would be a starting point for support of this effort. Stanley asked if there would be links to other Swanzey businesses off this portion of the web site. Fox stated that policy for business links should first be set by Selectmen. Initially, public information evenly presenting information about site plan approvals etc. could be featured as news and thus serve as a way to promote the business aspect of our town. Hutwelker asked about the timetable for the upgrade. Fox stated that work would begin soon with roll out of initial phases expected early in the year (January/February). Funding for the effort is part of budget 2009. Lerandeau asked the Committee if they wanted to go forth and participate in the upgrade. A motion was made by Hutwelker to contribute up to \$1,000.00 from the 2009 budget toward this project. Seconded by Stanley. Vote: All in favor.

Goals for 2009 & 2010 – Hutwelker, Boufford and Lerandeau met with Patrice Nesbitt of Pan Design following the group’s last meeting. Nesbitt offers the opportunity for the Committee to purchase a list of Swanzey businesses that she has compiled through research. The price for this list would be \$995. List content, standards, issues related to inclusion of businesses that might be operating without required land use approvals and one time costs versus those to maintain the list were discussed at length. Use of the list as a starting point for the committee’s efforts was also discussed. As a starting point for committee work, and with the policy issues regarding business listings and links requiring attention before moving forward on the web site, committee members felt list acquisition was an effective way to establish a database that could be reviewed, refined and improved (versus development from scratch). Lerandeau said EDAC would review the list before giving it to the town. Hutwelker made a motion to expend up to \$1,000 to purchase this list from Nesbitt. Seconded by Boufford. Vote: All in favor.

Selectmen’s Input – Memo to EDAC regarding the First Year Report was reviewed.

Other Matters – Hutwelker suggested that there needs to be more interaction between EDAC and the Selectmen.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 18th at 5:00 p.m.

Lerandeau asked Page if this Committee is something he would like to participate in. Page stated that he had no comment pertaining to the topics. He is retired and felt this would be good for him and would like to return for the January 18th meeting.

Carbonneau informed everyone of the Town's Pot Luck Lunch on Thursday, Dec. 17th at Noon to 1:30. Bring a dish.

Hutwelker asked if Committee should remain EDAC vs, EDC (not advisory). As a committee organized by the Selectmen, its current role is "advisory". A review of the statutory process would be required if members were interested in moving toward establishing an entity independent of town government. Members indicated a preference to remain (at this time) advisory.

Motion to adjourn by Boufford. Seconded by Stanley.

Meeting adjourned 5:55 p.m.

Submitted By,

Donna Munson
Recording Secretary