

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 10, 2011**

Present: David Cairns, Arthur Boufford, David Krisch, Steven Bittel, Greg Johnson, Gus Lerandeau. Also present was Town Administrator Beth Fox.

Chairman Cairns called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Chairman Cairns welcomed new member Steven Bittel and asked him to inform the Committee of his background. Bittel replied that he was in public financing for 25 years with municipalities, consulting and project financing.

Minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2010 were approved with corrections to the spelling of two last names, Cairns and Boufford.

Cairns stated that during the last meeting when reviewing the business list, the question came up as to why some of the businesses were not on the list. Fox researched and reported that the list reviewed was only those businesses that had not responded. Cairns suggested that members assigned businesses complete making contacts prior to the group's next meeting (February 14, 2011). Cairns asked what types of responses had been received to date by members completing follow up. Krisch informed the Committee that a couple of the businesses felt this was a way for the Town to re-assess their properties. Krisch explained to them that was not the case and encouraged them to complete and return the forms at which time they said they would. Boufford reported that some of the businesses thought it was junk mail and it had never even made it to the owners. Cairns encouraged the members to continue to follow up. Johnson reported he had tried to contact Doug Hamshaw (per his request to be contacted) but had been unsuccessful to date. Cairns said he would also try.

Bittel volunteered to assist in contacting businesses. Fox will provide him with the list of the businesses which were not assigned to members and he agreed to make calls seeking confirmations regarding whether or not they remained in business and obtain contact information if still active.

Krisch suggested keeping a supply of the forms at the recycling center.

Lerandeau asked Fox if the Committee was current on the status of the Safford Drive Project. He felt this would open up new lots for development. Fox reported that plans were advancing in the hopes that the project could be put out to bid in the spring for construction during the 2011 season.

Fox reported that the town, in accordance with its contractual agreement, was working with Keene city officials developing plans for the wastewater treatment plant upgrade anticipated in 2012.

Cairns informed the members that he would be composing a report to be included in the annual town report. He asked if any members had any questions or concerns. Members were satisfied with Cairns compiling the report.

Johnson commented that was the Committee's third year and it had been through a learning curve as an Advisory Committee, but asked how much more advising is there to do. Cairns explained that the Committee could set goals to include recommendation to the Selectmen to make the Advisory Committee a more hands on Committee. Johnson also asked if the Committee should meet again with various officials such as the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment and the North Swanzey Water Precinct. Fox suggested they do this following the elections in March.

Fox asked the members if they had any feedback regarding the Airport Advisory Committee's Development and Marketing Sub-committee. Krisch felt that if Swanzey is going to be part of the loop then we should work more closely with them.

Johnson asked if there were any further meetings regarding the Yale Forest work group. Fox replied that the Selectmen met with Yale representatives and asked what their long term plans were. While Yale has not taken a formal position on proposals discussed, their long term plans are focused on sustaining the properties as an educational forest environment. Any changes to the property's uses would be considered deliberately by Yale. Johnson felt the Selectmen should stay on top of it the issue to push it forward. Fox advised she would follow up and get a report from the Planning Board on the work group's efforts.

Next meeting scheduled for February 14, 2011.

Cairns made motion to adjourn. Seconded by Krisch

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Submitted by,
Donna Munson
Recording Secretary

Unapproved Minutes