

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2010**

Present were Arthur Boufford, Greg Johnson, Gus Lerandeau, David Cairns, Eric Stanley, Bill Hutwelker, Town Administrator Beth Fox and resident/concerned citizen, Chip Page.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the last meeting of December 14, 2009 voting to accept the minutes as written.

Johnson asked for an update regarding the purchase of the list of businesses in Swanzey from Patrice Nesbitt. Gus informed him that the Committee did purchase this list and now it needs to be reviewed and corrected. Hutwelker distributed copies of the list obtained from Nesbitt to each member and it was agreed that at the next meeting everyone would review it together.

Johnson asked for an update regarding the Town of Swanzey website. Fox informed the Committee that a contract was executed on Dec. 28, 2009 to include 4 photograph banners for the home page, architectural details of buildings for the business page covered bridges for the home page, a resident's page and a visitor's page. Launching the new website is expected by March 1, 2010.

Fox discussed with the Committee the New Hampshire Economic Revitalization Zone Program whereby businesses have the opportunity to apply for state tax liability credits. The Selectmen would like some feedback from EDAC. The areas proposed focus on the Homestead Woolen Mill, Swanzey development district and Route 10 business corridor. A motion was made by Lerandeau to support the Selectmen's efforts to move forward with the Economic Revitalization Zone Program. Vote. All in favor.

Johnson would like Chief Skantze to participate in one of the EDAC meetings to bring the Committee up to date on community water supply issues pertaining to fire suppression.

Hutwelker shared concerns expressed to him that EDAC was an extra review board or gatekeeper to the land use process. Members expressed their view that they had never represented the group in that manner. It was advisory aimed at improving opportunities for economic development within the town. Whether Realtors serving as members posed a conflict of interest was discussed. The group concluded that the expertise was a benefit to the Committee's work. To address the concern that EDAC was aimed at as serving as a gate keeper, members agreed that a letter should be drafted to go to Realtors and others to explain their purpose. Fox was requested to prepare a draft for the next meeting. Motion by Lerandeau to review the draft at next meeting. Seconded by Hutwelker. Vote: All in favor.

Hutwelker expressed an interest to have Bill Fenton and Bob Furlone be invited separately to join one of the EDAC meetings and get some feedback from them as well as making the public aware of what EDAC is.

Hutwelker advised Nesbitt intends to publish the new Swanzey magazine in March.

Motion to adjourn by Lerandeau. Seconded by Cairns. Vote: All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna Munson
Recording Secretary

