

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MAY 9, 2011**

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

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

Guest speaker Jack Donovan of Business Finance Authority (BFA) was introduced to the committee. Donovan explained that they help businesses with financing. They have many programs available to help non-profit entities to aid in local development including lending of money for infrastructure projects. They've worked with businesses with lease to buy programs and serve as a resource for current businesses looking to expand. Their current coverage area is from Colebrook to Cheshire County with most of their work in this area being done in partnership with MEDRC. They watch their portfolio quarterly. There have been problems with appraisals but he has noticed things starting to pick up in 2011. Donovan asked if we had any projects going on now. Fox informed him that the industrial park with Nanotech and Carlisle on Rte. 32 has been completed but the town is still working to expend its infrastructure including building a road connecting Rte. 32 to Rte. 12. Donovan felt our area compared to others was economically stable. Fox asked if they funded projects within the Black Brook Industrial Park. Donovan replied that they had participated in portions of that project. Fox asked whether BFA resources were match with CDBG funds or other similar programs. Donovan replied that occurs frequently. BFA can access tax credit allocations, do collateral shortfall loans and finance up to 100% of appraised value. Bittel asked if there was anything on their website. Donovan explained that the web site included limited program information but additional information could be provided to augment that available the web.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved by the committee.

UPDATES

Power Fluctuations – Fox informed the committee that she had received contact from a PSNH subcontractor two weeks ago advising that ground to sky trimming of trees starting at the Swanzev substation (on Eaton Road) and extending out Flat Roof Mill Rd. to Rte. 12 was scheduled late summer. Work would also be occurring on Sawyers Crossing Rd., Webber Hill and Rte. 32. Aim of this project is to reduce vegetation related power outages. In follow up to concerns expressed last week by a local business, PSNH has advised a section of Route 32 north of MRHS will also be included in the work plan. Krisch reported that PSNH would be willing to put monitors in at business locations providing the results within 1-10 days. Krisch also spoke with a subcontractor regarding the trimming of trees planned near his property on Eaton Rd.

Thank You/Welcome Letters – Drafts of these letters were provided with Krisch suggesting that the committee review these independently and get back to him within a few days with their feedback.

Other Matters – Krisch reported that he had spoken to the Regional Planning Committee and they suggested the committee needs to “define” itself by developing a mission statement. Krisch asked the committee to think about it and then a rough draft could be made. The Planning Committee advised they could assist in developing maps providing infrastructure and other needed information, publication assistance, aid with grant applications and serve as a resource to the group. The Commission also suggested that we cooperate and network with other towns, maintain a good website promoting what the town has to offer, build relationships, etc.

The committee reviewed a letter that was sent by the Selectmen to the U.S. Postal Service regarding the Swanzev Post Office asking them to reconsider their potential decision to move 4

rural delivery routes from the Swanzey Post Office to the Keene Post Office limiting the Swanzey Post Office's operations to retail and post office box delivery. This would have a negative impact on the service provided to businesses and residents causing delays in package and mail deliveries. Bittel suggested Fenton might be a business owner who would be concerned. Krisch asked for a volunteer to work with staff sending a letter expressing concern and Lerandau volunteered.

The group's next meeting date was set for June 13, 2011.

Motion by Lerandau, seconded by Bittel, to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna Munson
Recording Secretary