

**Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire**  
**Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2015**

**Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Economic Development Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Steven Bittel.

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Steven Bittel, Greg Johnson, Don Skiba, David Cairns, Arthur Boufford and Alternate Bill Hutwelker.

**Absent:** Lynn Rust, and Guy Pronesti

**Others Present:** Director of Planning and Community Development Sara Carbonneau

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** Minutes of April 20, 2015 were considered. Skiba **moved** to accept the minutes of April 20, 2015, seconded by Boufford and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

**REVIEW OF CURRENT PROJECTS:**

○ **TIF District and Safford Drive extension development promotion:**

- **Report on Safford Drive construction** – Bittel reported that, outside of the pumping facility, all that is left to do is final paving and striping. Curbing is done. Slip lane is done – and NH Route 12 widening is done. Carbonneau said it was her understanding that the construction is ahead of schedule.
- **Report on Safford Drive Ribbon-cutting** – Carbonneau reviewed the plan for the day and passed out invitations. Carmen Lorentz is from New Hampshire Department of Resource and Economic Development (DRED) and will be the main speaker. Ribbon-cutting will be at the NH Route 12 end of Safford Drive. Cairns will serve as Master of Ceremonies. There will be a procession of Town vehicles back down to the Keene State College Camp (KSC) Facility. Discussion occurred about the possibility of having a bus from Thomas Transportation or First Student to move attendees from KSC to the end of Safford Drive and back. Carbonneau said there will be a barbecue lunch at KSC Camp followed by a tour at Carlisle Wide Plank Floors and Moore Nanotechnology. Mike Jasmin and Dave Page will be helping out with food, but there is a need for a third person. Carbonneau will be at KSC Camp at 7:00 a.m. Skiba said he would be at the Camp at 7:30 a.m. to assist her. Bittel said he would be there as well. Bittel asked Johnson about bringing the Collier property map to the event. Johnson asked if there was a large map of the entire district. Carbonneau said she has one. Carbonneau also noted that Bob Furlone will be bringing a map as well. Carbonneau said she would take care of Notices for the public. Bittel suggested Glenn Page representing Swanzey Revenue Development District Advisory Board (SRDDAB) should be involved in the ribbon-cutting. Carbonneau said someone from Park Construction should be involved, Carmen Lorentz, Steve Bittel representing EDAC, and Deb Davis representing the Selectmen. Johnson suggested Swanzey EZ signs have some shrubbery around them to

look more permanent. Bittel said he would look into it. Curb appeal would be enhanced. Carbonneau said a Press Release has gone out to a number of radio stations and newspapers. Johnson complimented Carbonneau for doing a great job on the plan for the program. Carbonneau anticipated 60-75 folks at the ribbon-cutting.

- **Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce Membership** – discussion occurred. Bittel spoke about the members being all from Keene and none are from Swanzey. \$100.00 is the cost for joining for a year. Bittel suggested that Swanzey join and attempt to encourage the “greater” in their name to take in the interests of towns other than Keene. Hutwelker agreed that EDAC should become a member of the Chamber. Carbonneau said she would bring the issue to the Board of Selectmen. Johnson suggested tabling a decision until next meeting. Johnson said he is not a big fan of the Chamber and that they lean toward the non-profit sector. Bittel and Boufford said it is worth joining for a year to get some presence. Carbonneau mentioned that there is recognition that Keene is lacking in development land and business opportunities and therefore the Chamber should expand its presence to Swanzey if it wants to grow business in Southwest New Hampshire. Boufford said that membership also provides an advantage by providing access to the total list of members and to bulletin boards.

Hutwelker made a **motion** to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to join the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce. There was a second by Bittel. Discussion: organization is focused on fund-raising but maybe the new Director will take the Chamber in a new direction. Membership might be worth a try. All were in favor except for Johnson who was opposed. **Motion passed.**

- **South Burlington, VT** - There was a brief discussion about branding for South Burlington, Vermont, and their attempts to grow business at their city center.

Next scheduled meeting: June 8, 2015

**Adjournment:**

A **motion** to adjourn was made by Skiba with a second from Cairns and all were in favor. Adjournment occurred at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary