

**Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire**  
**Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2016**

**Call to Order:**

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

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Steven Bittel, Greg Johnson, Beverly Bernard, Don Skiba, Arthur Boufford, and Alternate Bill Hutwelker. The Chair seated Hutwelker for Pronesti.

**Absent:** Guy Pronesti, Lynn Rust

**Others Present:** Director of Planning & Community Development Sara Carbonneau, Town Administrator Michael Branley

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:**

- The minutes of October 12, 2015 were considered. Skiba **moved** to accept the minutes of October 12, 2015. The motion was seconded by Boufford and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***
- The minutes of December 12, 2015 were considered. Skiba **moved** to accept the minutes of December 12, 2015. The motion was seconded by Hutwelker and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

**Nomination for Officers:**

**Motion** was made by Skiba to reelect Steven Bittel as the Chair, second by Hutwelker, all in favor except Bittel who abstained. ***Motion passed.***

**Regional approach to business development**

Carbonneau spoke about contacting Hinsdale folks broaching the idea of forming a consortium of towns for the purposes of economic development. She said she also spoke to Winchester folks. She noted that with a combined regional approach legislative efforts are possible. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding may be more easily acquired.

Jack Donovan, Business Finance Authority of the State of New Hampshire, was contacted by Bittel and together they agreed that the hiring of a recruiter might be a good action to take. Bittel also said Cheshire County has a designated grant writer who is supposed to write grants for all towns within the County. Her name is Cindy Desrosiers and her title is Grant support Specialist for Cheshire County. She is looking for projects to take on.

Discussion took place about the possibility of hiring a part-time recruiter; maybe \$100,000 would get us three years of service. Boufford asked for goals for such a person. Bittel noted that the recruiter might assemble a portfolio of marketable properties in the region with focus on the benefits of the region. Funds might be better able to be obtained by using a regional approach. And better support from the legislature given a regional approach.

Johnson agreed with the idea of a regional approach but disagreed as to the method suggested by Bittel.

He said that he thought Monadnock Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) is the best group to do this kind of work. He said the group could be a catalyst, like the Peterborough Business Development

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Corporation. Bittel said that MEDC is lacking in funding and explained that it is good idea to get a critical mass of people willing to join Swanzey and tap into funding sources.

Hutwelker suggested including Troy and Fitzwilliam and other neighboring towns to approach to join Swanzey efforts. Carbonneau said Jaffrey is more aligned with Peterborough, but the other towns could be considered because it is possible to gather good suggestions from folks from these towns. She suggested that the core towns of Swanzey, Hinsdale, and Winchester should meet together first to share ideas. Johnson asked if there is a plan of action. Bernard suggested the goal might be to eventually form a corporation, possibly a 501(c)(3), made up of the folks from the towns, who would hire a recruiter, and apply for grant money. Carbonneau stressed legislative support would be easier to obtain given a regional approach. She gave an example of Coos County as able to draw legislative attention. She said she would be reaching out to Chesterfield. Bernard offered to assist Carbonneau if she needs help.

Next scheduled meeting: May 9, 2016

**Adjournment:**

A **motion** to adjourn was made by Skiba with a second from Boufford and all were in favor. Adjournment occurred at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beverly Bernard".

Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary