

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)
Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Economic Development Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:12 p.m. by Chairman Steven Bittel.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Steven Bittel, Greg Johnson, Beverly Bernard, and Alternate Bill Hutwelker.

ABSENT: Guy Pronesti, Lynn Rust and Don Skiba. Bittel seated Hutwelker for Skiba.

OTHERS PRESENT: Director of Planning and Community Development Sara Carbonneau

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

- The minutes of May 9, 2016 were considered. Bernard moved to accept the minutes of May 9, 2016. The motion was seconded by Bittel and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

OLD BUSINESS

- **Committee vacancy** – need for new member. Hutwelker suggested Jay Gomarlo and Hutwelker said he had spoken to Gomarlo and he would be willing to become a member. Hutwelker said he would be willing to step aside as an Alternate if necessary. Another Alternate was discussed. Carbonneau said that she would check to see who the new Executive Director at Pilgrim Pines might be and his or her interest in participating in the committee.
- **Update from the summer efforts to coordinate with other towns.** Bittel said there was a great meeting with Winchester and Hinsdale and a plan has been developed. Carbonneau spoke about the results of the meeting and noted the criteria to meet to get CDBG funding, which essentially goes to housing and additionally, she said unexpended economic monies are directed to housing. She continued saying that it was agreed among the towns that there is a need for a person to focus on economic development and who can be involved in grant writing. Estimate is \$60,000 to \$75,000 per year to hire such a person. She also discussed how that would be divided up between the communities. She suggested \$20,000 from each community: Winchester and Hinsdale and Swanzey. Bittel suggested a retired person for the job. There was a discussion that the total population of the three towns is close to 15,000 people, which can have a positive impact on politics for the area if the towns are united in their actions for developing business. Johnson asked about why not consider the entire County to work with. There was a discussion about why that might or might not work. Bernard suggested that the approach be a pilot project, starting small, whereby determining what works and what doesn't for encouraging economic growth. She said over time, with some measure of success, other towns will want to join the original three and therefore the base will get broader to include more towns in the region. Carbonneau said the vehicle for the three towns would be a not-for-profit entity. Johnson said that there is another group near the seacoast that is doing something similar. The next step would be to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the three communities. It was noted that there is a rough draft of a MOU being worked on.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion of priorities and 2017 goals – was briefly touched on.
 - Safford Drive marketing.
 - West Swanzey.

- Work with other towns to improve legislative presence and market representation.
- People with whom we should meet.
- Other ideas.
- 2017 Budget.

Next Meeting: October 10, 2016

Adjournment:

A **motion** to adjourn was made by Johnson with a second from Bernard and all were in favor. Adjournment occurred at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary