

**Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire**  
**Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2016**

*Note: Minutes are not final until reviewed and approved by the Committee. Review and approval of minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee.*

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Economic Development Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:01 pm by Chairman Steven Bittel.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Steven Bittel, Beverly Bernard, Donald Skiba, Guy Pronesti, CPA Lynn Rust, Jerry Gomarlo, and Alternate Bill Hutwelker.

**ABSENT:** Greg Johnson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Director of Planning and Community Development Sara Carbonneau

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:**

- The minutes of September 12, 2016 were considered. Bernard moved to accept the minutes of September 12, 2016. The motion was seconded by Bittel and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on the Tri-Town Economic Efforts**

Bittel reported that he and Carbonneau met with Winchester and Hinsdale officials to try to work out some details. Bittel said that the Selectmen from both towns are optimistic about the idea of joining forces. The working group is made up of one Town representative and one from EDAC or non-profit development corporation from each town. While there is general agreement that the towns need greater business recruiting efforts, questions remain as to the budget for the group and how to divvy up the costs. Bittel noted that with a combined population base of about 15,000 the three towns may be able to get more attention from the State of New Hampshire legislature and agencies.

Bittel spoke about some of the resources available to the towns including a tri-state effort being funded by Vermont Yankee money, originating out of Brattleboro, making a “green” mecca of this corner of the world. He said that both Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) and the Tri-State Green Enviro group are well funded.

Discussion was held about the amount of funds needed for a recruiting initiative. Carbonneau said that Hinsdale Development Corporation thinks \$75,000 per year is required. She also spoke about splitting the costs to one third each but the other towns are not in favor of that, asking that Swanzey, due to its size, carry more of the costs, which will likely prove problematic to the Town of Swanzey. Part-time versus full-time recruiter to hire was discussed.

Skiba said that the need is for a “Marketing Requirements Statement” that outlines what the area has to sell and how to sell it, and who you are going to sell it to. Grant writing was discussed. Rust spoke about the length of time needed to develop an economic growth program, and he proposed the need to plan funding for at least five years.

Budget numbers were discussed for proposing for EDAC next year. The Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds might be used to pay for the economic effort. But such funds are currently scarce due to the downward property revaluation. Carbonneau also noted she has funds for professional consultants. Bittel said that the EDAC budget has been \$5,000 to \$7,500 each year. Carbonneau said that we could possibly rustle up \$20,000 in Swanzey, but difficult beyond that. Bittel suggested a talk with Stu Arnett about the possibility of being the consultant for the tri-town effort. There was a discussion about adding Keene to the process which would get more attention at the State level. Skiba suggested Arnett lead a workshop focused on the tri-town effort. Rust said he would rather see a brand for Cheshire County not just for the Town of Swanzey. Bernard suggested having reps from Hinsdale and Winchester at the meetings with Stu Arnett. The Committee agreed to invite Arnett to a meeting which will be focused on the area/Cheshire County, and the idea of coming up with a requirements document.

**West Swanzey/Rte-10**

There was a very brief mention that the committee wants to pursue more discussion on this topic.

Next Meeting: November 14, 2016

**Adjournment:**

A **motion** to adjourn was made by Pronesti with a second from Bittel and all were in favor. Adjournment occurred at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary