

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)
Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2014

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 5:02 p.m. by Chairman Steven Bittel.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Steven Bittel, Don Skiba, Lynn Rust, David Cairns, and Alternate Bill Hutwelker.

Absent: Greg Johnson, Arthur Boufford and Guy Pronesti

Others Present: Director of Planning and Community Development Sara Carbonneau, Town Administrator Shane O'Keefe and Recording Secretary Beverly Bernard.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Minutes of January 13, 2014 were considered. Skiba **moved** to accept the minutes, seconded by Rust and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

Review of current projects:

- **Town Website (Bittel, Skiba, Carbonneau)**
 - Cairns mentioned that he thought the website was markedly improved.
 - Bittel urged all members to make critical comments over time to improve the site.
- **TIF District and Safford Drive extension development promotion**
 - Report on Safford Drive construction. (O'Keefe) – O'Keefe updated the members. He said the Town is waiting to hear back from Clearwater Pool & Spa regarding the offer made to them by the Town. An offer has already been made to Cheshire Fairgrounds Association and generally there is agreement as to the numbers. It was noted that survey work needs to begin to work on the subdivision. O'Keefe said the Town has to acquire, or at least be in contract to acquire, the property before it can go out to bid or begin that work.
 - Timing of construction – Bittel asked when O'Keefe thought bidding might go out and O'Keefe responded that he could not say given the latest setbacks regarding the need to satisfy the State of New Hampshire for moving telephone poles and addressing drainage issues.
 - Importance of SRDD Warrant Article regarding accumulated Tax Increment funds – Bittel filled in the members on the vote at the Deliberative Session which was in support of the requested change.
- **Development District update (Bittel)**
 - New Map (Carbonneau) – A discussion was held regarding the map of the development district and Skiba pointed out one place that shows Enterprise “complex” which should be Enterprise “zone”.

- Committee discussion on District “branding”:
 - It was generally agreed that the development district should have the new designation “Southwest New Hampshire Enterprise Zone”, or “SW-EZ” for branding. Bittel said they will try to meet with property owners in the district to get input from them. Cairns asked about the origin of “SW-EZ” – Carbonneau said it can be read as “Swanzey” or as “Southwest”, and was a result of digesting the input from the members of the committee. Rust said that there are a lot of good ways to play on the branding.

Rust made a **motion** to recommend to the Board of Selectmen and the Revenue Development District a new name for the district: *Southwest New Hampshire Enterprise Zone* with branding of *SW-EZ*. The motion was seconded by Skiba, and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Other Business:

Next scheduled meeting: March 10, 2014

A **motion** to adjourn was made by Rust with a second from Skiba and all were in favor. Adjournment occurred at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary