

ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2014

6:00 pm

Ashland School Cafeteria

Steering Committee Members Present

Susan MacLeod, Cheryl Cox (Planning Board ex-officio), Steve Felton (Board of Selectmen ex-officio)

Absent with Notice

Jill White

Ad Hoc Committee Members Present

Scott Stephens (Plymouth Regional Chamber of Commerce), Alan Cilley (Ashland Water and Sewer Department), Lee Nichols (Ashland Electric Department)

Others present

Michelle Roberts, Jane Felton, Norm DeWolfe, Kathleen DeWolfe, Fran Newton, David Roth, Patsy Tucker, Beno Lamontagne, Rick Ash

Michelle Roberts of the Lakes Region Planning Commission and owner of CyberFern Technologies provided a presentation on GIS mapping. She has been working with Ashland Water and Sewer mapping the manholes in town. The presentation will be available on the town website, under Economic Development.

A question and answer period took place from 6:45 – 7:15 pm.

This official meeting of the Ashland Economic Development Committee was called to order at 7:15 pm by Chairperson MacLeod.

Disposition of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Steve Felton to accept the minutes from the October 21, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Susan MacLeod. The vote was 3-0 in the affirmative.

North Country Council

Steve Felton attended a recent North Country Council meeting. He reported that the town of Littleton has made a lot of progress related to economic development and that we could utilize information about their successes to help us save time. Steve met with Glenn Coppelman, Economic Development Planner for North Country Council, to which Ashland belongs. Glenn has agreed to attend a future AEDC meeting.

Economic Development Agency

Steve also met with Alan Brigham who is the regional representative for the EDA, which is the federal Economic Development Agency. The EDA has grant money available but we need to put together a professional plan to present. Grant money is allocated based on how many new jobs will be created through the project presented.

New AEDC Member

Beno Lamontagne offered the names of several other contacts that may be able to assist in our efforts. Brad Bailey, a NH state representative is trying to put in place tax incentives similar to what the state of New York has been doing and which they have been running ads on television about. Michael Bergeron, Business Development Manager for DRED, works on behalf of the state assisting businesses considering relocation or expansion to NH. Also, House Bill # 1651 will be introduced to allow towns to abate taxes for businesses. Beno also agreed to become a member of the committee.

Ashland Utilities

Lee Nichols and Alan Cilley are officially ad-hoc members of the AEDC and will attend appropriate meetings. Ashland's access to I-93 and its low electric rates are two excellent marketing tools. Lee Nichols presented a comparison of local electric rates. (See Attachment #1) There has not been a rate increase since 2010 and rates should remain stable for the foreseeable future. Our waste water system is another asset. It is currently at 12% capacity.

Future Meetings

- Michael Tentanowski, executive director of the Plymouth Enterprise Center will be attending a future meeting to discuss training topics that could be provided for the business forum. In discussions with Susan MacLeod he recommended the AEDC consider seeking 501 (c)(3) status.
- Michael Capone, the Bristol Town Administrator will be attending our meeting in December to share the steps that Bristol has taken over the last several years to accomplish what has been done there.
- Brien Ward, an attorney from Littleton will be attending the February meeting to discuss the success Littleton has had related to economic development.
- George Bald, a longtime commissioner of DRED with many years of economic development experience who helped facilitate the revitalization of Pease Air Base will be invited to attend a future meeting.
- Cheryl Cox recently met with Jeff Hayes, executive director of the Lakes Region Planning Commission. Jeff is a former executive director of North Country and has 20 years experience working in the planning field. He also offered to attend an AEDC and to be of any assistance he could.

Facebook Page/AEDC Page

No report.

Other Topics

- The Planning Board has about \$4300 left from the Master Plan process that could be used for GIS mapping.
- Steve Felton suggested bringing all the mill building owners together to discuss each one's plans for the buildings they own.
- Fran Newton will be creating a report to highlight the many good things Ashland has been involved with and accomplished in the last year.
- Susan MacLeod will create a survey to be distributed to Ashland businesses asking the types of training they would like to see provided at the business forum.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 6:30 pm** at the Ashland Fire Station, ***unless notified otherwise. Note the change in start time.***

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Cox

	AED	CO-OP	LIBERTY	PSNH	UNITIL
Min. Charge	6.50	26.06	11.81	12.39	10.27
500 KWH	<u>65.27</u>	<u>88.27</u>	<u>79.03</u>	<u>81.54</u>	<u>72.72</u>
TOTAL	71.77	114.33	90.84	93.93	82.99
Min. Charge	6.50	26.06	11.81	12.39	10.27
750 KWH	<u>105.33</u>	<u>132.40</u>	<u>120.55</u>	<u>122.31</u>	<u>109.70</u>
TOTAL	111.83	158.46	132.36	134.60	119.97
Min. Charge	6.50	26.06	11.81	12.39	10.27
1000 KWH	<u>138.89</u>	<u>176.53</u>	<u>162.06</u>	<u>163.08</u>	<u>146.68</u>
TOTAL	145.39	202.59	173.97	175.47	156.95
Minimum Charge	6.50	26.06	11.81	12.39	10.27
Rate Per KWH		0.17653		0.16308	
First 100 KWH	0.10776				
First 250 KWH			0.13839		0.14293
Over 250 KWH			0.15439		0.14793
400 KWH	0.13623				
Over 500 KWH	0.13423				
Effective Rate Change			0.07755		0.07087
11/1/2014	250 KWH		0.21594		
	Over 250 KWH		0.23194		
12/1/2014	250 KWH				0.2138
	Over 250 KWH				0.2188

AEDC 11-18-14

Att. 1