ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2015
7:00 pm
Ashland Fire Station

Steering Committee Members Present
Susan MacLeod, Cheryl Cox (Planning Board ex-officio), Steve Felton (Board of Selectmen ex-officio), Beno Lamontagne

Absent without Notice
Jill White

Ad Hoc Committee Members Present
Lee Nichols, Superintendent (Ashland Electric Department), Scott Stephens (Plymouth Regional Chamber of Commerce)

Others present
Glenn Coppelman, Paul Branscombe, Norm DeWolfe, Kathleen DeWolfe, Mardean Badger, Eli Badger, Jae Demers

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairperson MacLeod.

North Country Council
About North Country Council: Founded in 1973, North Country Council (NCC) is the regional planning agency serving 51 communities and 25 unincorporated places in the northern third of NH. It is the mission of NCC to encourage effective community and regional planning for the development of economic opportunity and the conservation of natural, cultural and economic resources. This is accomplished by providing information, regional advocacy, technical assistance, community education, and direct service to the region, its organizations, and political subdivisions. NCC has always been a flexible organization, working with communities on a variety of issues and community concerns as needs have arisen. In its function of service to the region, NCC initiates or provides essential support for planning and economic development services.

Glenn Coppleman, from NCC attended the meeting to discuss opportunities for grants. Specifically, we are interested in obtaining a grant to develop an economic development plan for Ashland. Some grants available have rolling timeframes while others have deadlines in March or June. Most grants require matching funds.

Glenn will work with us to determine which grants would be applicable and complete the application process for us. Grants are available for planning efforts, technical assistance and actual projects. We need to clearly define the priorities and scope of what we want to do and get price quotes of work that needs to done. The purpose is to determine how much grant money will be requested. **An important note**: any requests for grant money should include a representation of how many jobs will be created by the efforts being funded by the grant money.

Paul Branscombe will register Ashland on the Grants.gov website.

Property Brochure
Jae Demers attended the meeting to provide an example of a brochure she has created. It contained the fourteen storefronts and other commercial properties currently available in Ashland. Local realtors will be listed on the brochure which will cover the cost of the printing. On discussing distribution, Glenn Coppleman suggested copies be made available at the north bound Hookset rest stop area.

Wallace Building Products
Paul Branscombe spoke with Jay Smith from Wallace Building Products. Any plans to move the business have been shelved for the time being.

Business Retention
Lee Nichols reported that he met with the plant manager of the business rumored to be leaving Ashland. There is no truth to this rumor that has been circulating around town.

GIS Update
A contract has been signed to begin the process of getting Ashland tax information entered into the GIS system.

Minus33
A company in Ashland, Minus33, was recently featured on NH Chronicle. Minus33 sells Merino wool outdoor clothing. It is located at 22 Mill Street in Ashland. Its website is: www.minus33.com.

Other Topics
It was suggested that it would be beneficial to communicate what this committee has been doing. An article in the newspaper was recommended. Susan MacLeod has written something for the annual town report and will modify and contact David Ruell to get it published.

Meeting Schedule
Future meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

The next meeting will be held on **March 31, 2015 at 6:30 pm** at the Ashland Fire Station, ***unless notified otherwise***.

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Cox