

ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

June 28, 2016

6:30 pm

Ashland Fire Station

Steering Committee Members Present

Susan MacLeod, Cheryl Cox (Planning Board ex-officio), Beno Lamontagne

Steering Committee Members Absent

Steve Felton (BOS Board ex-officio)

Ad Hoc Committee Members Present

David Toth (Water & Sewer Commissioner)

Ad Hoc Committee Members Absent

Lee Nichols, Superintendent (Ashland Electric Department), Jae Demers

Others present

Fran Newton

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chairperson MacLeod.

Meeting with Mill Property Owners

An update was given on the recent meeting coordinated by Steve Felton with the mill building owners. The meeting was hosted by Judy Smith at Mill No. 3. Rob Pearlman, John Glidden, Dale Grant, on behalf of owner John Grant and Andrew Lane also attended. It was a very positive meeting. A good deal of discussion was about parking and all the potential options to increase availability of parking. It was pointed out in the meeting that the Scribner meeting is listed as a historical building. The building owned by John Grant that currently houses Elpakco has a lot of space that could be utilized for light manufacturing. It is currently being rented out as storage space. The owner of the white building that sits over the river was not present. The others who are most familiar with that building felt the best thing to do with that building is to remove it.

John Glidden, who owns Minus33, says he is going to need more space for his business. Judy Smith has increased the activities at her location significantly.

Beno Lamontagne talked about the lack of availability of light industrial space in the surrounding area (north of Concord) and the potential of several of the buildings in the mill area for that use.

Tours of each building with members of the committee will be arranged to help determine next steps. CDFA has funding for feasibility studies which could be used to determine areas suitable for parking. John Glidden said he would provide any documentation he has on the mill.

General Discussion

Beno will provide a template for writing a plan based on the ideas being discussed. The plan would become the application for grant money. We can ask each owner to assist in describing what they believe to be the best use of their buildings. During the tours of the buildings we need to gather as much information and take photos that will be used as part of the application process.

LCHIPGRANT

An application has been submitted for a historic resource report for the town hall. This will include recommendations for best use of the space. This could also be done by the owner of the Scribner building.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Please note the change to Monday for the next meeting. **The next meeting will be on Monday, July 25 @ 6:30 at the fire station.**

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Cox