

# ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

October 23, 2017

6:30 pm

Ashland Fire Station

### **Committee Members Present:**

Steve Felton (Chairperson), Cheryl Cox, Beno Lamontagne, Susan MacLeod, Fran Newton, *Ex Officio* Selectman; Eli Badger

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm.

**Minutes: September 19, 2017:** Fran motioned to accept as written; Steve seconded; All in favor.

**Update on PSU Contact:** Susan shared the responses from three PSU professors interested in projects on the list sent to Ben Amsden (Center for Business and Community Partnerships). Amy Villamagna who teaches the Sustainable Communities course highlighted several projects that potentially work for her students: For Town Administrator, assisting in the administration of the TAP grant and pursuing other related funding; Ms. Villamagna also has NHDOT funding for bikeability/walkability assessments for all of NH and expressed willingness to work on TAP grant and applying for further grants. For Planning Board, creating and conducting survey for the Master Plan update. For DPW, surveying invasive species locations and developing a best practices management plan. For P&R Department, work on researching and applying for grants, and work on a beach improvement project. For AEDC, assist in coordinating a charrette on the mill area, and on follow-up work on grants and public outreach educational materials. For the Conservation Commission, assist in researching information for updating the Master Plan chapter, and developing outreach projects and educational materials for public participation in conservation efforts in Ashland. Howard Frederick, Professor of Entrepreneurship is interested in speaking with us about our work in Ashland and how his project-based classes may play into our projects. The Committee felt we should invite him to a future meeting, and/or the summit in November. Chantalle Forgues is Assistant Professor of Business Law and was interested in our potential project of becoming a separate nonprofit redevelopment organization.

**Meeting with Anne Denton Cooley:** Miscommunication on a meeting led to her showing up for meeting in Ashland committee members didn't know was confirmed. She and Beno did meet up, and Fran will see her tomorrow (Oct. 24) at the Grafton County ED Council meeting in Plymouth. Another meeting will be arranged in the future.

**Fall Meeting:** Rescheduled to Nov. 28, 29, or 30, with Wed., Nov. 29 the preferred date. Location: American Legion now the preferred venue for size and parking availability. Mill #3 available after 10:30 am on Tuesday and Thursday. Upstairs room at CMan capacity is 42 and Fran has spoken with Alisha Wendelboe to confirm it would be available. Food: look for sponsors or donors and inquire whether the Legion would like to cater. Discussion on a visual to have for the meeting. Susan spoke with Ward D'Elia who gave a few helpful suggestions on using Google Earth maps, but his firm is too busy to create conceptual renditions in time. Eli offered to work on it. Media coverage: Fran will contact Donna Rhodes from Salmon Press, and Beno will contact source at *Union Leader*.

**Contact list:** Eli put it in a Dropbox for all to review. Add to list: State Senator and Representatives, Jack Dugan, George Bald. Businesses to include on invitation list: CMan, Freudenberg NOK, Riveredge

Marina, MVSB, Ashland Lumber, Rochester Shoe Tree, Jeremy Hiltz Excavation, Samyn & D'Elia, Jack McCormack, Edward Adamsky, Hughes Realty, Lisa's Personal Training, and Quince & Quail.

**Other:** Brownfields 2 Update: Report due end of October/beginning of November. Town can use report to submit request for release of liability covenant from the Attorney General.

**Action items: Fall Meeting**

- Inform mill owners of fall meeting date – Steve
- Draft an overview of vision for our presentation -- Steve
- Secure a location: Contact American Legion, Christine Cilley, Ernie Paquette -- Fran
- Technology: Water & Sewer to borrow projector -- Fran
- Food: CMan to donate -- Fran; Banks to sponsor (MVSB, Jill White) – Beno
- Media coverage: Salmon Press – Fran; *Union Leader* – Beno
- Provide contact information for George Bald and some missing email addresses – Beno
- Invitations to go out by week of Nov. 6

**Action Items: Future Meetings**

- Contact PlanNH (Robin LeBlanc) -- Steve
- Compile list of groups and venues for public informational presentations – Charlie Smith
- For action plan to include tax credits, arrange meeting to include businesses and bank reps and Donna Lane to explain the program
- Invite Water & Sewer Commissioners to a meeting; this precedes asking Alan Brigham, EDA to come to address infrastructure and grants available – Fran
- Follow up with professors from PSU on interns -- Susan
- Confirm Fire Station availability for next meeting – Steve

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

**The next regular meeting Thursday, November 2, 2017, 6:00 pm at the Fire Station**

*Minutes submitted by Susan MacLeod*