

# ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2017

6:30 pm

Ashland Fire Station

### **Committee Members:**

Steve Felton, Chair, Cheryl Cox, Susan MacLeod, Fran Newton, *Ex Officio* Selectman;

**Others Present:** Anthony Adamsky, Levi Bradley, Katie Maher

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

### **Fall Meeting Follow-up:** Recap and next steps to outline and send to summit participants

#### 1. Focus on Ashland Properties LLC (aka Heath) properties:

- Get all legal information on properties' status and all the steps and timeline for a municipal taking
- Get summary of results of the Brownfields 2 assessment

#### 2. Research grants available for a structural engineering and other infrastructure studies and to prepare buildings for sale.

- Levi mentioned that there is a foundation resource listing (FCU) of funding opportunities accessible on the computers in Lamson Library at PSU, with a format to search by category. Gary McKool is a contact, and Ashland resident, Alice Staples also works at the library.
- There is also an "A to Z" database of information on businesses to check on potential contractors or tenants or buyers that is available at the Manchester Library.
- Keep window of town ownership as short as possible to get property cleaned up, liability issues resolved and at the best market price to recover tax losses and get property back on the tax roll.

#### 3. Confirm that the broadband fiber running through Ashland could be made more widely available.

- Katie Maher had followed up on the UNH project of running broadband fiber throughout the state, first to connect the university system, then to connect schools and libraries with higher speeds and access to Internet 2. Ashland Elementary decided not to pursue connecting with them and instead went with a commercial carrier, First Light. The Town has also hooked up with First Light.
- Schedule a meeting with First Light, school IT and Town Office regarding access

#### 4. Reconvene the mill owners

- Work on getting a consensus for an overall vision for them to collaborate rather than compete
- Suggest that properties could be designated as historic for possible funding opportunities
- Invite Barry Gaw to participate to share his experience in these types of projects and the marketing aspect
- Explore enacting RSA 79 E (2019 vote) to establish the mill area as a Tax Incentive District

The responses from the summit group discussions will also be included and sent out before the end of the year. We should establish a quarterly report to send out regularly.

**Other:** Parking. Area off Mill Street owned by John Glidden, on Firehouse Lane, and the Lane-owned buildings on Mechanic Street were discussed. With new leadership in the American Legion, it may be possible to again open up discussion about use of the town-owned, Legion-leased parking lot.

**Subcommittee formation:** Levi inquired about establishing a group focused on the work for the mill area.

Use official Town seal and email address for all communications.

**Action items:**

- Follow up on legal answers -- Fran
- Work on draft of letter to participants – Steve
- Contact Tim Andrews of Nobis for report summary -- Fran
- Research grant opportunities at Lamson Library – any and all
- Look up Elm Grove, a renovation company that contacted us – Levi
- Ask Rusty McLearn who his contractor(s) were for Mill Place – Steve to ask Beno to call
- Find out name of contractor who worked on Waterville, ME mills -- Fran
- Ask Jeff Hayes to attend another meeting -- Steve
- Confirm Fire Station availability for next meetings – Steve

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

**Next Meetings: Tuesday, January 16, 2018, 6:30 pm at the Fire Station**

**Tuesday, February 20, 2018**

*Minutes submitted by Susan MacLeod*