

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY MARCH 24, 2014
TOWN OFFICE
10:00 AM**

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 10:02 am with a roll call. Normand DeWolfe, Phil Preston, Fran Newton present. Jeanette Stewart arrived at 10:05 and Steve Felton was absent with notice.

Others present: Paul Branscombe, Ashland Town Administrator (TA) and Cathy Conway, VP Economic Development for Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC).

MEETING WITH CATHY CONWAY

Chairman DeWolfe mentioned that the meeting was posted as there was a quorum of the Board that came to listen to Cathy Conway.

Cathy is responsible for Economic Development investment in Coos, Carroll and Grafton Counties in NH and the NE Kingdom of VT on behalf of NCIC. She is a lender for small business which also includes setting up the business and training employees.

Discussions centered on TIF Districts, Matching Grants, CDFA Tax Credits, Tax Deeding and Main Street improvements.

Cathy previously worked for the City of Berlin where she was Housing Coordinator and developed a Tourism program for the City. She is currently working on an LNG Infrastructure project proposed for the Groveton Mill site. This project will provide opportunities for businesses to utilize the natural gas being processed at the new White Mountain LNG in Groveton.

Cathy is going to send us information on the Transport Community System Program (TCSP) and the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) both of which could enhance Ashland's opportunity to obtain funding for the larger scale projects in Town.

TA Branscombe described what needed to be undertaken with the Town Hall improvements and that we were working with USDA Rural Development in North Conway. Cathy indicated she knew our contact Anne Getchell and had worked with her on previous projects. Cathy confirmed that any grant discussions with USDA would not preclude NCIC from holding talks with the Town. The TA will follow up on this at the May CEDS meeting in Bethlehem.

There being no further business Chairman DeWolfe motioned to adjourn at 10:53 am. Preston Seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted

Paul Branscombe. 3/25/14