

ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

March 27, 2017

6:30 pm

Ashland Fire Station

Steering Committee Members Present

Susan MacLeod (Chairperson), Beno Lamontagne

Steering Committee Members Absent

See Steering Committee Members below.

Ad Hoc Committee Members Present

Kathleen DeWolfe (Conservation Commission), David Toth (Water & Sewer Commission)

Ad Hoc Committee Members Absent

Lee Nichols (Ashland Electric Department)

Others present

Mardean Badger, Eli Badger, Cheryl Cox, Fran Newton, Tejasinha Sivalingam, Andrew White

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM. Introductions were made around the table.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the Jan. 30 meeting were approved.

Steering Committee Members

Cheryl Cox is no longer a member of the Planning Board. A member of the Planning Board will need to be appointed as ex-officio to the AEDC. Steve Felton is no longer a member of the Board of Selectmen and a current member of the BOS will need to be appointed as ex-officio to the AEDC. Cheryl and Steve will need to submit letters of interest to the BOS if they are interested in staying on as steering committee members.

Broadband Access

Susan MacLeod provided an update on the broadband project discussed at the last meeting. Ashland Elementary School decided not to go with the broadband access available through the UNH project, referred to as NH Broadband Mapping and Planning Program (NHBMPP). Service with the current provider will not include access to Internet2. Internet2 serves educational and research needs. Katie Maher will continue to look into potential costs for other town buildings to hook into the UNH system. Internet speed at town office is very slow. She will be meeting with the library trustees to discuss their interest in having the library hook into the UNH system. Susan also provided the name of Dr. Campbell McLean from Littleton General Hospital as a contact for any questions the town may have about safety concerns related to fiber optic cables and wifi, etc.

Brownfield's

Fran Newton provided an update on the mill building Brownfield's assessment. There was a meeting attended by DES, Jeff Hayes from LRPC and NOBUS and town officials. The phase 2 assessment is in process. Jeff Hayes also told the town that LRPC has money available for other buildings for things such as Brownfields assessment and petroleum cleanup. NOBUS will develop a contract to be submitted to DES for determining the extent of the work to be done for cleaning up the mill building. LRPC has money available to do the actual clean-up. It would be a very good time to have a follow-up meeting with the mill building owners, while money

is available. Steve Felton arranged the first meeting and will be asked about arranging a follow-up meeting. Jeff Hayes is very interested in working with the town related to economic development opportunities. There is also money available to have another charrette done by Plan NH. Jeff Hayes will send Charlie Smith the application for charrette funding.

Non-Profit Status

Applying for non-profit status would take some time but could be very beneficial as we move forward. Brian Ward from Littleton, who has met with AEDC in the past could be of assistance. To be successful, the committee needs more people dedicated to economic development in Ashland. The committee has been structured to include business people and others but it has lacked consistent involvement by anyone from local business.

Whitten Woods

Kathleen DeWolfe gave an update on Whitten Woods. Two more land parcels have been added. One eighty-four acre parcel and one twelve acre parcel. Surveying was a difficult process but work will continue on the trail system when the weather improves.

General Discusssion

Andrew White discussed his interest in 17-19 Main Street for use in light manufacturing. Ashland is his first choice and he is also looking at other available properties which may suit his needs. Various properties available in town which may be suitable were discussed as options. He wasn't aware some of the properties were available. He was given contact names. The Quince and Quail will be moving back to Ashland. They will be located at 44 Main Street. Regular monthly meetings will resume.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 24 @ 6:30 at the fire station.

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Cox