

ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

May 30, 2017

6:30 pm

Ashland Fire Station

Steering Committee Members Present

Susan MacLeod (Chairperson), Steve Felton, Beno Lamontagne

Steering Committee Members Absent

Cheryl Cox

Ad Hoc Committee Members Present

Fran Newton, Ex Officio Selectman. David Toth (Water & Sewer Commission)

Others present

Tejasinha Sivalingam

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from March 27, 2017: Beno motioned to accept as written; Steve seconded; all in favor.

Reorganization

Vote named Steve Felton Chairman, Cheryl Cox Vice Chair, and Susan MacLeod recording secretary.

Regional Chamber of Commerce and other outreach

Susan met Frank Cocchiarella, the new director of the Central NH Chamber of Commerce. The chamber is holding monthly "business after hours" to build up the membership. Susan will contact him to invite him to a meeting to discuss an event in Ashland. Another contact made was with Nina Domina from PSU's Center for Business and Community Partnerships and she will also be invited to discuss the program and what projects may work beneficially to the students and the town. We should reconnect with the Enterprise Center's director to explore promoting Ashland as a location for "graduating" businesses.

150th Celebrations charrette?

The 150th Committees events primarily focus on the past, and both the Planning Board and Heritage Commission have briefly discussed sponsoring a charrette to look to the future of the Town. This committee may also wish to participate in an envisioning event to gather public input.

Broadband Access

No update.

Brownfield's

Fran Newton provided an update on the mill building Brownfield's assessment. There was a meeting attended by NHDES, Jeff Hayes from LRPC and Nobis and town officials. Nobis has the DES contract for the phase 2 assessment. LRPC funds may help with follow up clean up. Steve Felton will contact Jeff Hayes to set up a morning meeting to discuss next steps and the suggested charrette. After this, another meeting with the mill owners can be arranged. Status on Scribner building: Levi Bradley is working on getting investors for the distillery. The BOS wrote a letter stating that this type of business is allowed in town. Mr. Bradley has also

contacted the Planning Board with questions. The plan at this time is that he will lease the building from current owner, Squam River Hydro LLC (Andrew Lane) looking to purchase in the future.

Non-Profit Status

The basic reasons to become a nonprofit organization: to provide greater flexibility in timelines and process to qualify for grants and foundation funding, to accept donations, and to be able to purchase and sell property without the process of voter or governing body approval; to broker public/private partnerships to bring businesses and jobs to Ashland; and to widen the opportunity for participation from people throughout the region. Applying for non-profit status involves several steps: first to do outreach to get the minimum requirement of five people to commit to serving on a board of directors (maximum is usually 15). Committee members will approach several local people in business, banking, law and accounting. To apply for the Attorney General's Office Charitable Trusts Unit level corporation status (RSA 292), a name, a mission statement, by-laws and articles of incorporation must be written. Name to be registered with the Secretary of State. Beno has samples from other groups that became nonprofit economic development organizations to use as templates. With that accomplished, an application for IRS 501(c)3 status would be filed for \$400.

Other

Beno Lamontagne mentioned the Senate bill SB76 that recently passed has expanded the RSA 79E tax incentive program to now include new construction as well as renovation/restoration of commercial buildings.

Susan MacLeod mentioned HB 654 The House bill created a committee to study short term and vacation rentals. The Senate added an amendment which by-passes a study committee and basically removes municipal authority for oversight on these rentals. The bill has returned to the House for a vote within the next few weeks. This coupled with the new Accessory Dwelling Unit law supports more rental units, especially by subdividing single family homes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 27 @ 6:30 at the fire station.

Minutes submitted by Susan MacLeod