

ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

June 27, 2017

6:30 pm

Ashland Fire Station

Steering Committee Members Present

Steve Felton (Chairperson), Cheryl Cox, Susan MacLeod

Steering Committee Members Absent

Beno Lamontagne with notice

Ad Hoc Committee Members Present

Fran Newton, Ex Officio Selectman. Mardean Badger

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from May 30, 2017: tabled

Regional Chamber of Commerce Director, Frank Cocchiarella

Mr. Cocchiarella brought printed materials to share and talk about the revitalized Central NH Chamber of Commerce (CNHCC) covering 14 towns. It has held several successful "Business After Hours" events, collaborated with the State Department of Travel and Tourism to promote the area, as well as the New England States collaborative to market the area overseas. This year the CNHCC will be three years old and qualify for Joint Promotion Publications (JPP) funding from the State to update and create more printed materials. The member business in Ashland is Ashland Lumber and there will be an after-hours event there this September. The discussion was about getting more participation by Ashland businesses. "The more towns that support the chamber, the more the chamber can support the communities." The important function of the chamber is communication and collaboration. Work is being done on a central calendar listing and Mr. Cocchiarella encouraged us to sign up for the Eblast news. Basic membership is \$240/yr (July 1-June 30); for towns 1-3% of room & meals tax revenue is suggested. We thanked Mr. Cocchiarella for coming.

Discussion afterwards: 1. There should be a list of sources of Town information that need updates, i.e. The Salmon Press *Community Guide*, so current information is sent out for publications. 2. We should be involved with CNHCC: Fran made a motion to join; Cheryl seconded; all in favor. 3. Sign up for the Eblast on their website: Susan will do. 4. New England Mountain Biking Association had been mentioned as a draw for economic activity. Representatives expressed interest in Whitten Woods trail system; follow up with SLA if they are actively working on trails yet. 5. 4th of July fireworks was also mentioned as important draw for the Town by Mr. Cocchiarella. That committee's meeting on August 14 will determine if they have enough people to continue.

Review of meeting with Ben Amsden of Center for Business and Community Partnerships and Michele Fistek, a PSU "Cluster" leader

Beno, Fran, Steve and Susan met at PSU this morning to discuss appropriate town projects to engage interns and students. Mr. Amsden was enthusiastic that potential ones mentioned were feasible and it was decided that we should write up a bullet point proposal of them to submit, and we will reconvene in August to flesh out logistics and possible timeline.

Broadband Access

No update. Town Administrator exploring updating with Bayring for town offices. Library will be following up on UNH broadband with internet 2 expansion. The multiple computers in the library regularly go down with the current service. Cost is a primary consideration.

Next step with Mill Owners

Fran spoke with Jeff Hayes of LRPC and he expressed interest in meeting with this committee about the mill area. Another meeting with the mill owners would follow. Steve will contact Mr. Hayes to set up a morning meeting after the Fourth.

Non-Profit Status

Committee members will continue to approach potential board members. When there are several interested, a meeting will be scheduled to outline the process towards becoming a non-profit entity.

Other

Susan asked about the Norm DeWolfe Volunteer Day. Fran is organizing it with Leigh Sharps as other Selectperson. Katie Maher has volunteered to help. Both Susan and Katie have been in touch with Kathleen DeWolfe about what the day should be – work day or recognition day and other details. Fran asked Susan to contact Kathleen and Katie to set up a meeting to discuss details.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 25 @ 6:30 at the fire station.

Minutes submitted by Susan MacLeod