

ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

July 25, 2017

6:30 pm

Ashland Fire Station

Steering Committee Members Present

Steve Felton (Chairperson), Cheryl Cox, Beno Lamontagne, Susan MacLeod

Ad Hoc Committee Members Present

Fran Newton, Ex Officio Selectman. Mardean Badger; Eli Badger also present.

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

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from May 30, 2017: June 27, 2017 tabled

Broadband Access

Town Offices upgrading to fiber optics with First Light for faster uploading. Library and Fire Station (designated Emergency Operations Center) can also be connected in the near future.

August 8 meeting

Steve set up a draft agenda: Parties involved/invited: AEDC, representatives from Selectboard, Planning Board, Water and Sewer, Electric Dept; Fire Chief, LRPC, Mill owners. Fran will invite Tim Andrews from Nobis who is involved in the brownfields assessment. Businessmen Barry Gaw and Mo Lafreniere were also put on the list.

Purpose/Agenda topics:

- Current situation review of mill area including ownership, Brownfield update, and key attributes and of each parcel.
- Create a working document format for current situation key points on mill for future reference and use. Tax cards (sq. footage, ceiling heights, W&S, electric, other amenities), GIS information, overview maps and history from Eli Badger are sources to start the comprehensive documentation of the mill area. Ask owners to provide information they have and to verify information obtained.
- Review of 7/11 meeting key points.... leading to vision/plan
- Charrette concept for mill as information gathering /input tool to solidify plans. CDFA planning grants of up to \$12,000 could probably fund a charrette and be used as matching funds from other sources.
- Mill owner feedback/suggestions/willingness to participate in collaborative process to have one cohesive plan.
- Feedback from other groups present
- Roundtable components/timing/need for preparation drives date of next meeting in the fall
- Next steps and people involved in each step

- Beno mentioned the State website www.choosenh.com as a good place for owners to advertise their available space. State business recruiters use this site. We will include it along with an example listing at the meeting to encourage owners to take advantage of this resource.

Steve will draft a letter to mill owners and others for committee to review by Friday (7/29).

Non-Profit Status

On hold

Other

Steve mentioned that emails sent to aedc@ashland.nh.gov were bouncing. Mardean will send test and follow through if there is a problem.

Fran and TA Charlie Smith enrolled in the fall (9/18-11/3) UNH Economic Development Academy with requests for scholarships. Charlie will only go with a scholarship.

Committee should submit budget request for 2018. Membership dues to CNHCC request denied due to default budget has no funds for AEDC.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 8 @ 8:00 am at the fire station.

Minutes submitted by Susan MacLeod