

# ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2017

6:30 pm

Ashland Fire Station

### **Committee Members:**

Steve Felton (Chairperson), Cheryl Cox, Beno Lamontagne, Susan MacLeod, Fran Newton, *Ex Officio* Selectman

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

### **Review of Action Items:**

**Warrant Articles:** Steve called Jeff Hayes of LRPC to follow through on discussion regarding warrant articles for this project. First one should address the town taking possession of the white building. The brownfields report (due by Oct.-early Nov.) should provide information to answer questions regarding the risks and benefits. Update on assessment: sub-surface will be completed this week, and drilling scheduled for 9/20. Next week the hazardous materials survey will be done, and 10/9 is the ground water monitoring event. Incumbent upon the first one passing, put in another warrant article asking for funds to match any grants that will be applied for in 2018. The possibility of using some of the unassigned fund balance was mentioned.

Beno suggested contacting the Attorney General's office to get a covenant "not to sue" for the release of liability when taking the property. Executive Councilor Joe Kenney can assist with this. This will be valuable in the information for the public in addressing the liability of the Town taking vs. not taking the property. If it remains in private ownership, no funding is available and the current owner is unable to address any of the safety/health/reuse issues.

Another warrant article discussed was one for adopting 79E tax incentive program. Selectmen need to establish a designated district.

**Fall Meeting:** Tentative date is Wed., Nov. 15, 10 am with a lunch and afternoon session. Location: Riveredge Marina, Mill #3, American Legion or the Old School suggested. Attendees: 20-50, invite from list created. Food: look for sponsors or donors. Key agenda points: 1. brief overview of Town; history of the "mill area" and its current status; metrics of all structures with infrastructure, current ownership; marketing piece with Ashland assets, and next steps i.e. a charrette 2. Wrap up with a Q&A and comment session. 3. Desired outcome: attendees understand what we want to accomplish and what their roles will be in the project. Key buzz words: job creation, green energy, low electric rates, high speed fiber optic availability, turnkey buildings. 4. Follow up by sending all the minutes, contact list, and thank you's, and actively keep in touch.

### **New business:**

**Grafton County Economic Development Council:** As recommended by Jack Dugan and Mark Scarano, we should invite the new CEO Anne Duncan Cooley to a meeting and see how much the GCEDC can be involved in our town project. Beno will call with tentative dates, Tues., Oct. 3 am or pm, or Thurs., Oct. 5 pm.

**NEETAC:** In discussion with Steve, Mark Scarano mentioned New England Trade Adjustment Act a funding source based in Boston that is for businesses that have been affected by overseas competition. It supports creation of a new business and employee wages.

**Economic Development Academy:** Fran started with the internet training and is sharing the articles and information with the committee. The first article addresses making positive changes in the community

through positive actions. Asset mapping is one tool mentioned. eventually, homework will be to develop a community project that can nicely tie-in with the mill project outreach.

AEDC email: Reminder to use as shared source point.

ENewsletter: Committee advocates for re-establishing a factual municipal newsletter.

**Action items: Fall Meeting**

- Inform mill owners of fall meeting date – Steve
- Compile metrics for properties – Eli Badger (?)
- Secure a location: Contact Riveredge (Barry Gaw) -- Fran; Mill #3 (Judy Smith) -- Cheryl; Back-up: Old School (TriCap) or American Legion (Ernie Paquette?)
- Technology: Water & Sewer to borrow projector
- Food: CMan to donate -- Fran; Banks to sponsor -- Beno
- Spreadsheet of contact list – Susan; post it on Google Docs -- Eli

**Action Items: Future Meetings**

- Contact Anne Duncan Cooley – Beno
- Contact PlanNH (Robin LeBlanc) -- Steve
- Compile list of groups and venues for public informational presentations – Charlie Smith
- For action plan to include tax credits, arrange meeting to include businesses and bank reps and Donna Lane to explain the program
- Invite Water & Sewer Commissioners to meeting; this precedes asking Alan Brigham, EDA to come to address infrastructure and grants available – Fran
- Follow up with Ben Amsden and Howard Frederick of PSU on interns
- Confirm Fire Station availability for next meeting – Steve

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

**The next meeting with guest, tentatively Tuesday, Oct. 3 or Thursday, Oct. 5**

**The next regular meeting Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 6:30 pm at the Fire Station**

*Minutes submitted by Susan MacLeod*