

# ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2018

6:30 pm

Ashland Fire Station

### **Committee Members:**

Steve Felton, Chair, Beno Lamontagne, Cheryl Cox, Susan MacLeod, Fran Newton, *Ex Officio* Selectman;

**Others Present:** Anthony Adamsky, Levi Bradley, David Toth

Meeting called to order at 6:28 pm.

**Next steps/ mill development project and Brownfield results:** The draft of the Brownfields report was received from Nobis. Steve spoke with Tim Andrews and they agreed that a meeting that also included Jeff Hayes would be essential in understanding the report results and for formulating next steps. Mr. Andrews will contact Mr. Hayes and come up with some dates to set up our meeting. The committee also needs to know what legal questions must be answered and think of all the questions the public will ask concerning a municipal taking of the property. Researching all available grants, including funding to pay professional administrative help should be done now. Some discussion on getting legal counsel lead to agreement that inquiring around for references is in order. This committee will meet with the Board of Selectmen with information to contribute to decision-making process that will then go before the public. To focus the narrative to the public, the end goal for the Town must be clear. The best outcome is the property is cleaned up and sold to recover back taxes and clean up costs, and the new use brings in tax revenue and jobs. Look for examples of before and after (i.e. Groveton) to use to illustrate benefits and tax impact.

Reconvening mill property owners will be planned for after information has been gathered. An update of any progress will be sent out to the stakeholders involved in the summit.

Beno mentioned that NRBC funds can be used to match federal money. There is an informational session in Plymouth at the Enterprise Center on Tuesday, March 6 at 1 pm. Fran, Dave and Levi plan on attending. Ashland would not qualify for funds this year due to Water & Sewer Dept. not yet expending the funds it has received. Other grants coming up: Moose Plate, LCHIP, USDA Rural, CDFR.

**Other: Future consultants.** Beno offered to invite Executive Councilor Joe Kenney to engage him in our effort.

**RSA 79-E:** Levi inquired whether it was on the ballot this year. It is not, but work needs to be done for next year. Work with Planning Board was suggested. Andrew Cushing from NH Preservation Alliance is a good resource.

**Chair:** Steve will not be able to continue as chair. Annual reorganization scheduled for April.

**Minutes:** December 5, 2017: Motion to accept as written by Fran; second by Beno; all in favor.

December 19, 2017: Motion to accept as written by Cheryl; second by Fran; all in favor.

**Action items:**

- Follow up on legal answers from 12/6/17 -- Fran
- Work on draft of letter to participants – Steve
- Contact NHMA for legal referrals -- Susan
- Contact Mayor Tony Guinta of Franklin, and Bristol TA Nik Coates for legal referrals -- Fran
- Research grant opportunities at Lamson Library – any and all
- Find out name of contractor who worked on Waterville, ME mills – Fran
- Confirm meeting date with Tim Andrews and Jeff Hayes -- Steve
- Confirm Fire Station availability for next meetings – Steve

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

**Next Meetings: Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 6:30 pm at the Fire Station; meeting with Tim Andrews and Jeff Hayes TBD**

*Minutes submitted by Susan MacLeod*