

ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

April 24, 2018

6:30 pm

Ashland Fire Station

Committee Members:

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

Others Present: Levi Bradley, Eli Badger, Mardean Badger, David Toth

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.

Review of BOS on April 16, 2018: Generally went well; would have been better if Jeff Hayes and Chief Heath could have been present. Tim Andrews presented information not previously discussed in public. Much work has to be done to decide on the next steps. Still have some outstanding questions on property and process to be answered. Still an issue about knowledgeable counsel and how to pay for it. The BOS must direct the Town Administrator in what work he will have to do on this project.

Fire Chief Heath has provided a copy of the federal guidelines for dealing with abandoned and deteriorating buildings.

A charrette will be important in the public input/educating process to engender the positive aspects. Must decide whether to do before or after public hearings. Robin LeBlanc should meet with the committee first, before a proposal to BOS.

Fran, Dave, Mardean and Eli attended an LRPC meeting and spoke with Tony Guinta regarding Franklin's revitalization efforts. The situation is more complex with multiple buildings in various states – hazardous materials, disrepair, squatters, etc., but a public/private effort has brought in developers, Colby Sawyer College, CATCH housing, etc. There was resistance from the public for a long time, but things are turning around, and success builds upon success. Mayor Guinta is willing to come and speak with us, and the BOS. He also can supply references for legal assistance.

Action Steps:

1. Get legal and property questions answered. 1a. Convene a planning meeting with Jeff Hayes, Tim Andrews, Tony Guinta, Beno, and Chief Heath; 2. Get final Brownfields Report; 3. Meet with PlanNH for groundwork meeting and have TA attend; 4. Prepare another meeting with BOS with Mayor Guinta.

Presentation:

Levi Bradley presented an inspiring Powerpoint on his vision of connectivity in Ashland. He and his wife Givan explored the existing walking opportunities in Town, and looked for ways to connect them from Memorial Park, through the mill area, along Winter Street to the Mill Pond, to the RR Station and Scribner Forest. It could be a manageable project to do in phases with sweat equity and community participation. Committee members decided to schedule a walk on Sunday, April 29 at 8am, meeting at Memorial Park.

Committee Membership:

Susan's term as Planning Board *ex officio* expires on April 30. Committee needs more participation, especially from the business community. Levi will put in a letter of interest. Fran mentioned MVSB was going to have someone involved. Anthony Adamsky has attended meetings when he can; as an Ashland business and property owner he can be a member.

Action items:

- Contact Robin LeBlanc of PlanNH for dates she can attend a meeting – Fran
- Contact Mayor Tony Guinta for dates he can attend a meeting – Fran
- Contact Jeff Hayes, Tim Andrews, Chief Steve Heath, Beno for plan meeting – Steve
- Contact Jill White for committee member from bank – Fran

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 6:30 pm at the Fire Station;