



ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(EDC)

~ Minutes ~

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Sean Collins – Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sean Collins – Vice Chair, Jennie Angell – Secretary, Charles Bozzello – Ex-Officio, Benoit LaMontagne, Bonnie Bethune

Peter Ott – Chairman, Jana Flores-Jon were absent with notice. Alan Cilley attended.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

The Committee reviewed the minutes of their Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 meeting. Sean Collins made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Jennie Angell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION:

Ian Carmichael, State Program Manager, Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) visited the Ashland Beach with some EDC members to determine available grants for upgrading site. Charlie Bozzello expressed desire to get synergy between the Selectboard and Ian for future projects in Ashland support by EDC.

Benoit LaMontagne was a member of the past EDC.

EDC to inventory of town-owned properties (buildings/land) to encourage business to come to Ashland. Littleton, NH was mentioned as a good example of business park success.

Benoit LaMontagne noted some of Ashland advantages: 1.5 miles from Boston; right off Interstate 93; proximity to Plymouth University and Spaulding Hospital; mill buildings have potential for technology businesses, etc.; local employment; cited Colebrook, NH as an example of development with \$2.4M of federal grants in the past.

Jennie Angell was approached by a potential investor who needs high energy and HVAC needs providing employment for skilled employees.

Site walks discussed of 2 town-owned mill buildings that Town is considering auctioning – 1 Hill Ave. with 30,000 sq.ft. with hydroelectric access.

Ian Davis recapped 3/5/2025 tour with potential for Town to apply for the NBRC grant. Ashland Beach discussion of outdoor infrastructure, pier, food place, electrical upgrade depending on passage of Warrant Article to allow EDC to explore potential upgrades to propose to Town. Ian pointed out the Ashland entrepreneurial spirit in center of NH.

Discussion ensued regarding 1) waste-to-power/energy 2) solar farm 3) business incubator 4) Grafton County Economic Development grants 5) Mill Pond Development 6) Freudenberg building 7) List of current businesses in a brochure 8) List of current commercial buildings available for rent 9) Catalyst grant for Beach improvement

ADJOURNMENT:

Sean Collins – Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM

The next Economic Development Committee meeting is scheduled for 5:30 PM on Wednesday, March 19th, 2025 at the 6 Collins Street utilities office.

Minutes submitted by Bonnie Bethune