



Town of Hopkinton

330 Main Street, Hopkinton NH 03229-2627 - (603) 746-3170 – www.hopkinton-nh.gov

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Public Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 – 5:30 P.M.

Hopkinton Town Hall

Members Present: Louise Carr, Sam Delgado, Jim Fredyma, Ian Hart, Alexander Pooler, Greg Sagris, Steven Whitley

Members Absent: Andrea Folsom, Meredith Lee

Public Present: Scott Clay, Katherine Mitchell

Staff Present: Anna Wells, *Economic Development Director*, Karen Robertson, *Planning Director*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jim Fredyma called the meeting to order at 5:33.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from [February 1, 2023](#)

Greg Sagris made a motion to approve the *Economic Development Committee minutes of February 1, 2023*. Ian Hart seconded. There was no discussion. **Motion passed 5-0** with one abstention (Sam Delgado).

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. InvestNH Grant / Housing Committee

The committee discussed which consultant to recommend to the Select Board to engage to carry out the work of the InvestNH Housing Opportunity Grant the Town was recently awarded. After a brief discussion of a few options, Ian Hart moved to recommend Ivy Vann as a consultant for the InvestNH HOP Grant. Jim Fredyma seconded. **Motion passed 7-0.**

The group then discussed which EDC member would serve on the Housing Committee. Louise Carr volunteered. The group thanked her for her willingness and looks forward to hearing about the new committee's progress.

2. [Strategic Objectives](#) & 2023 Priorities

The group discussed the Economic Development Committee's main priorities for 2023 and touched on some activities that fall under those categories. The group discussed how these three top priorities are interrelated in several ways. They also discussed that within these categories, expanding water and sewer service is a highest ranking priority.

- 1) REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: Ensure Hopkinton has the **appropriate regulatory/policy/zoning framework** in place to enable all facets of Economic Development.
- 2) VIBRANT CONTOOCCOOK VILLAGE: Ensure continued and improved **vibrancy in Contoocook Village** - with a focus on walkability, placemaking, wayfinding, and business support.
- 3) BUSINESS SUPPORT: Ensure **existing businesses remain stable and/or grow**. Work to **attract new business development** in appropriate areas.

Ms. Wells is working to write up the details of these goals/priorities.

Committee members raised questions about the status of Hopkinton Village Intersection, and where that falls in the priorities. Mr. Whitley explained that this project has been moved to the purview of the Select Board and the Hopkinton Village Precinct, and those two entities are moving that project forward with Central NH Regional Planning and NH DOT.

3. AARP Community Challenge Grant (deadline March 15th)

The group discussed at length the possibility of submitting an application for this grant. This grant is designed for quick-action projects; funded projects must be completed by November 30th of this year. The group decided that applying for funding for a Walk Audit in Contoocook Village would be the best option for this funding cycle. The Town can apply for future projects in future years. Ms. Wells will prepare the application.

4. **Congressionally Directed Spending Requests (deadline March 10)**

The group discussed which project(s) to submit CDS requests for, if any. The Committee instructed Ms. Wells to rework and resubmit the for the same project as last year, which was the improvement of sidewalks and crosswalks in the Contoocook Village area.

IV. UPDATES

1. **Grants update**

1. RTP Grant (past; granted)

Ms. Wells reported that the deed has been recorded transferring the land from TDS to the Town of Hopkinton.

2. T-Mobile Hometown Grant

Ms. Wells reported that Hopkinton's project was not selected to receive this grant.

2. **Business Outreach**

The Business Survey and letters are nearly ready to go. Ms. Wells intends to send letters to approximately 75 different entities in the next few days.

3. Other Board/Committee Updates (as necessary)

V. OTHER

Mr. Whitley invited Public Comment from those in attendance.

Mr. Clay asked about the availability of the snowmobile corridor that used to bring winter visitors into downtown Contoocook on their snowmobiles. Ms. Wells explained that part of the corridor has been restored with the recent Recreational Trails Program Grant the Town received to construct a trail between Kearsarge Avenue and the library, in part along the railroad corridor that the Town now owns.

Ms. Mitchell inquired as to whether the Economic Development Committee is exploring issues of parking in Contoocook Village, particularly winter overnight parking. Ms. Wells and others replied that the municipal parking lot will be repaved and the capacity improved this summer. In addition, the amount and location of parking will be factored into any plans that are considered for the village, specifically, when working through designs for Fountain Square, if it is entered into the State of NH's Ten Year Plan for transportation improvements. On the issue of parking in the village, Ms. Robertson suggested that perhaps a request could be made that business owners and employees utilize the municipal parking lots, rather than the street-side parking spaces immediately in front of the establishments.

Next EDC Meeting Date(s): March 22 @ 5:30pm, Town Hall

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Ian Hart moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alex Pooler. There was no discussion. **Motion passed 7-0.**

There being no other business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Wells

Economic Development Director