



Town of Hopkinton

Office of Select Board

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019

The meeting of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) was called to order by Chair Steven Whitley on Thursday, June 20, 2019, at 6:05 p.m. in the Philip S. Dunlap Room at the Town Hall.

Members Present: Andrea Folsom, Steve Lux, Jr., Erik Newman, Anna Wells, Steven Whitley

Members Absent: Byron Carr, Tom Congoran, Jim Fredyma

Staff Present: Neal Cass-Town Administrator

Others Present: Bruce Ellsworth (Planning Board Chair), Stephen Heavener (Capital Regional Development Council), Mike Tardiff (Central NH Regional Planning Commission), Ken Traum (Select Board Member)

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Lux made a motion, seconded by Mr. Newman, to approve the Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2019. Mr. Whitley called for the vote.

VOTE: Folsom, Lux, Newman, Wells, and Whitley voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

New Member

The Committee welcomed new member Andrea Folsom. She shared that she is a clinical social worker. She was interviewed as part of the MTAG process and plans for Hopkinton to be her “forever” home.

Stephen Heavener – Capital Regional Development Council (CRDC)

Mr. Heavener said he had reviewed the things that the EDC has done and commented that the TIF District plans are good.

He shared the following information:

- His organization is one of 10 regional development groups in the state. – all 10 of these groups do CDBG grants.
- CRDC does lots of other lending as they are 501C4 organization with stockholders.
- They do gap lending in the \$50,000- \$ 1 million range. These are done as second mortgages.
- They have been involved in many of the projects in downtown Concord with the largest being the Grappone Center.

- They only lend to “for profit” companies.
- The market is driving where they are doing their work now.
- CRDC has been involved in hazardous waste remediation projects.

When asked his recommendation for the EDC moving forward, he recommended:

- Having a full-time person on staff, someone who is available for communication and to keep the momentum moving forward. The town needs to have a long-term commitment.
- Need to expand water and sewer

Mike Tardiff – Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC)

Mr. Tardiff shared what he recommends as the next steps:

- Need to keep up momentum
- Have a vibrant up to date website
- Promote 79E
- Use the ERZ program – This area can be designated by the Select Board and promoted. Businesses in the area receive a tax break on their Business Profit Tax when they invest in personnel.
- The EDC needs a vision of what it is going to do.
- Be ready for this work to be a marathon.
- He offered assistance with writing a strategic plan for a fee.
- Could provide at an hourly rate, a “circuit rider” to help the town with economic development.

MTAG Grant Update

The steering group is meeting this coming Tuesday to review the work prepared by Arnett Development Group based on the interviews that have been done.

TIF Districts

The Select Board has reviewed a first draft of the document creating the Exit 6 TIF Advisory Board and will be reviewing an updated version at its meeting on Monday.

Other Items

- Mike Tardiff will be contacting Bridget Beckwith to come to the next meeting to share information on the ERZ program.
- The Select Board should work on establishing 79E boundaries.
- The EDC will review the Economic Development chapter of the Master Plan
- Ms. Wells is creating a list of potential projects for CDBG grants.
- The open house at HP Fairfield is Thursday, June 27, 10-12 with a ribbon cutting at 11:00.

Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, July 17, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Town Hall

Ms. Wells moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Lux seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Neal Cass, Town Administrator