

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

May 23, 2017

MINUTES

Present: James Kelly, George Sterling, Adam Hamilton, Martha Schaefer, Chubb Whitton, Jerry Galus, Jason Garland and Cy Gregg

Also Present: Peter Throop, Director and Laura Norton, Administrative Assistant, Office of Community Development.

Chair Sterling called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Minutes:

A motion was made/seconded (Garland/Hamilton) to approve the Minutes of April 25, 2017 as written with all in favor.

EDA Leadership - Nomination for Chairman:

A motion was made/seconded (Hamilton/Kelly) to retain George Sterling as Chairman of the EDA with all in favor.

Letters of Support:

“There are three Letters of Support for you to consider” said Mr. Throop as he distributed copies to the members. When Chair Sterling asked if they should consider them one at a time or in concept Mr. Throop replied, “please take them up one at a time.”

Peterborough Bridge Redesign: A motion was made/seconded (Hamilton/Kelly) to provide the Board of Selectmen a letter of support to the 1833 Club and their Library efforts with all in favor.

Nashua Community College: A motion was made/seconded (Whitton/Gregg) to provide the Board of Selectmen a letter of support for Nashua Community College locating a satellite campus in Peterborough with all in favor.

Main Street Bridge Redesign: Mr. Throop briefly reviewed four alternatives for the bridge redesign. He noted that the previously considered alternative included a permanent pedestrian bridge on the downstream side of the Main Street bridge which would facilitate additional space for the three traffic lanes on the road bridge. He noted that new concerns had been raised during the consideration of the Library redesign, with a conclusion that “the previously recommended alternative would adversely change the looks of the bridge, so they are going back to review other alternatives.”

Reviewing the options, Mr. Throop described alternative #1 with a permanent pedestrian bridge located to the upstream side of the Main Street Bridge (“the Pine Street people would like that” interjected Ms. Dietsch); alternative #2 which eliminates the permanent pedestrian bridge and includes only one sidewalk on the Main Street bridge with wider traffic lanes; alternative #3 which also eliminated the permanent pedestrian bridge and has a narrower roadway width to maintain two sidewalks: and lastly alternative #4 which eliminates the permanent pedestrian bridge and widens the roadway width to allow for two sidewalks on the bridge and the wider traffic lanes.

After a brief discussion that included the pedestrian bridge view line, its location in reference to the current portico off the Library, cost factors and retaining the character of the bridge, a motion was made/seconded (Gregg/Kelly) to provide a letter of support for option #4 as presented to the members with all in favor.

Review of EDA Goals & Objectives Status:

With the *Context for Today’s Agenda: EDA Goals & Objectives* projected on the screen Ms. Dietsch reviewed how each item on the agenda fit into the three-year Goals and Objectives of the EDA. She noted the items highlighted in green (attracting and retaining a talented workforce, lower commercial/industrial vacancy rates and generation of new businesses) “are ones I feel we have made good progress on.” Moving on she told the members “we need to put a structure into place that will outlive the current volunteers so that we can look at the goals and objectives and see where progress that has been made and where it has not.” She reminded the members “the goals are three-year projection under the ten-year Master Plan. We have to remember what we are trying to do is measure progress.” Ms. Dietsch touched on the metrics for each goal and the objective created to obtain them. “We have gained resources but need a plan deployment” she said. She went on to briefly update the members on the efforts to improve broadband, increase the housing base, improve outreach and collaboration and the need for a new Marketing Subcommittee Chairman.

Scenic Byway Project Update:

Chamber of Commerce Director Sean Ryan told the members the plan for the scenic byway had been submitted to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. He reiterated the byway *begins* and *ends* in Peterborough. “We have submitted the route to Greenfield, Dublin and Harrisville’s Board of Selectmen for review and we are waiting to hear from Hancock.” Mr. Gregg asked what the byway requirements were with Mr. Ryan replying, “basically we have to complete a plan that will maintain the marketing sustainability of our goal which includes keeping the marketing current (in print and electronically).” When Mr.

Gregg asked about signage Mr. Ryan replied “yes, there is signage but that is provided by the state. The town will have a program or map with the scenic and cultural location information.” He went on to note “we have Mount Monadnock, Pack Monadnock, and Shieling Forest that we can use as established points to get around the area.” “Sounds like it is in good hands” interjected Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Ryan ended with a brief update of a four Chamber of Commerce effort (Peterborough, Jaffrey, Rindge and Hillsborough) in producing a marketing piece for distribution. This news magazine (called Current) will be distributed by DRED, local employers and real estate companies. “It is not the entire Monadnock Region, if we did that it would be too watered down. This is regional” he said.

As he concluded Mr. Throop projected the Chamber’s advertisement in the 2017 edition of *Destination NH*, A Newcomer’s Guide for the Experts at New Hampshire Magazine. Mr. Ryan pointed out the new tag line “America’s Original Grover’s Corners!” was attracting attention.

Master Plan Updates:

Beginning with the Economic Vitality Chapter Mr. Throop noted he’d hoped to have a draft for the members at this meeting. “It is not ready yet” he said. He went on to say the Housing Chapter Subcommittee had meet two weeks ago “and we meet again tomorrow.”

Development Projects:

Mr. Throop briefly reviewed (approved) major construction projects coming in the near future: both the GFA Credit Union and RiverMead’s new construction and a larger space and re-design of the Rite Aid Pharmacy at the Peterborough Plaza.

Employers Meeting Update:

Mr. Gallus told the members a tentative date of June 15th was in place for this meeting. He noted New Hampshire Ball Bearing had offered to host the meeting at their facility. Mr. Gallus also told the members the first meeting was meant to be a working meeting and the topic they’d chosen was workforce. “Getting the date is key” he said adding “it is like herding cats, everyone is enthusiastic but no one has time.” He concluded by noting he was working on the agenda and would do a Doodle Poll to confirm the date. Mr. Galus explained this meeting was geared to the larger employers in the region (NHBB, Monadnock Community Hospital and RiverMead were examples). Mr. Whitton suggested a representative from Nashua Community College and Chair Sterling suggested a representative from the School District be included.

In closing Mr. Whitton also encouraged the members and audience to write individual letters of support for Nashua Community College before the June 1st meeting. He told the members and audience the letters should go to Paul Holloway, Chairman of Community College System of New Hampshire with a copy to Lucy Jenkins at Nashua Community College. "I have the information" he said. From the audience Dennis Calcutt told the members Lori Barg had received approval for her Hydro-electric plant and that she would be looking for major energy consumers. "It is buying local green power at reduced rates" he said. Noting Scott Farrar Retirement Facility was the closest big organization to the dam he concluded "it will be better with fewer, larger buyers."

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Next Meeting:

June 27, 2017 at 7:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Norton
Administrative Assistant