

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

September 15, 2015

MINUTES

EDA Members Present: Chub Whitten, James Kelly, George Sterling, Adam Hamilton, Hope Taylor, and Ed Juengst.

Also Present: Peter Throop, Director, Office of Community Development

Chair Sterling called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. noting the first item on the agenda was the approval of Minutes but they were going to go right to a presentation by Ms. Dietsch.

Chair Sterling then thanked Jeanne Dietsch for her hard work on the Broad Band Subcommittee Workgroup.

Mission Statement Presentation:

Ms Dietsch reviewed the proposed EDA Mission Statement, highlighting the third point and explaining that global product and services drive are part of our regional economy and that our economic development efforts should focus on these categories as well. Ms. Dietsch noted that the first step of the plan is to find out more about the people in town who are serving and working for global players. She noted the Broad Band Survey sent to every resident of Peterborough and Sharon, meetings with Broad Band providers, creation of Economic Development coordinator position and following -up on recommendations from the plan and survey.

A motion was made/seconded (Whitten/Kelly) to approve the third Vision Statement item “Be a global player in selecting specific industry sectors”, with all in favor.

Broadband Survey

Ms. Dietsch provided an update on the survey planning process and noted her desire to invite the surrounding towns to publicize the survey and have their communities fill it out. “It costs almost nothing to process and the additional data gives us more information” she said. Mr. Juengst asked if the survey would be both a paper survey as well as online with Ms. Dietsch relying “online only” Mr. Throop explained the use of grant funds to hire the marketing research company to administer the survey.

Ms. Dietsch noted that our hope is that through the survey the town will identify companies already represented here with a national/international presence in compatible industry sectors. Mr. Whitten interjected “that is the target” with Ms. Dietsch adding “and become a global player in those sectors.”

Ms. Dietsch went on to review the next steps which included how the EDA can assist the Broadband subcommittee with writing press releases, participation in survey roll-outs, community member outreach and continued association/collaboration with the school. Mr. Kelly asked specifically “how will Broad Band capabilities be featured?” Ms. Taylor suggested “it

could be a news release on the website” with Mr. Whitten noting “never let a good crisis go to waste.”

Mr. Throop noted “the Committee needs to move on to the next step.” adding “after the survey we will need to map current capability, list of options, and cost of implementation, and then decide on the best option.”

Ms. Taylor noted “it will be a news item and on the website at the appropriate time.” Mr. Kelly advocated for getting information on the website *now*. Ms. Vincent agreed adding “it would put a positive spin on this.” Ms. Taylor, also in agreement noted “if we want to put something on the website now, we should do it.”

Other EDA Workgroup Updates:

Outreach Workgroup

Chair Sterling noted Mr. Whitten and Ms. Vincent had a meeting with a publishing firm in Ipswich, Massachusetts and had a meeting scheduled with Michael Bergeron of the Department of Economic Development (DRED).

Other Business: Updates

Planning Board:

Mr. Throop gave a brief review of the Planning Board’s activities.

Master Plan Steering Committee:

Mr. Throop gave a brief review of the draft of the Vision Chapter of the Mater Plan and encouraged all members to attend the public hearing scheduled for October 28, 2015 at 5:45 p.m. in Bass Hall at the Monadnock Center for History & Culture.

Monadnock Art X Tech:

Mr. Kelly gave a brief update of MAXT activities.

Ms. Dietsch announced an event tonight at 7:00 p.m. with Akhil Garland who will speak on entrepreneurship. “Every Thursday is our regular meeting with a monthly creative get together” she said. Mr. Kelly explained how to contact MAXT with students, interns and post-grads.

Future Topics and Speakers:

Once again the subject of alternative energy surfaced, “Alternative energy is a topic we should all discuss” said Mr. Whitten. A brief discussion about Lori Barg and *Community Hydro*, a company that works with municipalities, schools, businesses and industry to install small, low-impact hydroelectric turbines in existing dams and dam-less diversion structures; Chris Henderson and *Borrego Solar* for the construction and operation of 947 Kilowatt solar array on 5 acres of the former waste water lagoons at the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the *Antrim Wind Project*, which proposes a 28.8 MW, 9 Turbine Wind facility just off Route 9 in Antrim, New Hampshire followed. Chair Sterling noted the Monadnock Center for History & Culture was interested in a focus discussion on the topic.

Tracy Messer suggested the topic of Human Capital – Connecting the un/under employed. He also noted the Thornton Wilder Society and the plan for their international conference to be held in Peterborough in 2018. He concluded by noting “I appreciate all the good work everyone is doing.”

Minutes:

A motion was made/seconded (Taylor/Hamilton) to approve the Minutes of August 18, 2015 with all in favor.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday October 20, 2015

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Throop
Director