

Town of Newington, NH

Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 28th, 2019 Town Hall

Present: Vice Chair, Jeff Hiatt, Jill Boynton, Jennifer Kent Weiner, Bob Raymond, Alicia Busconi, Michael Donahue, Selectman Ted Connors, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Town Planner Jerry Coogan, and Jordan Strater, Intern.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Minutes Approval: J Boynton moved to approve the minutes of January 31st, 2019 with a correction to the title of the document from Board of Selectmen to Economic Development Committee. A. Busconi seconded with all in favor.

ED Website Review: Jordan went over her draft of the text for the new economic development website. There were many suggestions made by various members of the committee, which were noted by Jordan.

M. Donahue will write up a piece about maritime business in Newington for the website, and J. Boynton will be giving Jordan some edits. A. Busconi will send Jordan some info she has to write a "10 Fast Facts" about Newington.

All agreed to using a google map to display properties for sale or lease.

J. Kent Weiner would like the website to be completed by May 1. The rest of the committee agrees that this is the tentative date they'd like the site up by.

Business Visitation Update: G. Coogan visited with the owner of the Fox Run Mall. There is no debt on the facility, and they are planning to update the façade of the mall. They seem very positive and will have an updated plan for the mall in six months.

G. Coogan said they also discussed how malls are becoming "lifestyle entertainment centers." Malls are adding elements such as gyms. A. Busconi agrees this is the new trend.

G. Coogan spoke briefly with ATCO, who are too busy to meet. They stated they are having difficulty finding employees.

He also met with Sea-3, who are starting to bring in railcars with propane. They plan to be fully operational by September. They would like to expand, possibly to the Mahony owned land. They are positive about Newington.

T. Connors visited Bernie & Phyll's, they seem very happy. Jordan plans to do an interview with them in the future.

Development Update: G. Coogan discussed the development of the intersection of Piscataqua and Woodbury. Development will be occurring rapidly over the next few years, with Wilcox planning to raise their building, the construction of the Northeast Credit Union Headquarters, and the China Buffet lot turning into an office building. It could become a very busy intersection with hundreds of new employees. G. Coogan expressed a desire for these new businesses to work together on a design scheme to make the design of the intersection uniform.

McGovern Auto Group will be moving into the Toys R' Us building. They are a Subaru dealership. A. Busconi said the dealership will be good for businesses in the Crossings and for restaurants.

J. Hiatt asked if the committee can help these developments at all.

G. Coogan said it would be beneficial in the future to make the area around these new businesses more pedestrian friendly, such as the area from the Toys R' Us building to the new Aldi to the Crossings.

New Business: G. Coogan asked if the committee wants to do another broker mixer like the one from the fall. This discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

The election of a new Chair and Vice Chair will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 24th, 2019 due to scheduling conflicts.

Adjournment: J. Hiatt moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. T. Connors seconded with all in favor.