

Town of Newington, NH
Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday February 24th, 2022

Present: Chair Jeff Hiatt, Committee Members; Ken Latchaw, Judy Miamis, Bob Raymond, Brandon Arsenault, Michael Donahue via Zoom and Martha Roy, Town Administrator.

J. Hiatt called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Minutes Approval: K. Latchaw moved to approve the minutes of November 23, 2021. J. Miamis the motion. B. Arsenault abstained with all others in favor.

Budget Update:

M. Roy reported that the budget was on track with the only expenditures to date being out of the Wage and FICA lines.

Robynne Alexander and Jim Wisnicwski-Infinite Equities Group-Possibilities of Mall Redevelopment:

The Infinite Equities Group works with communities about their need for properties. They can convert properties from one use to another based on the requirements. R. Alexander listed the challenges that face Newington that have been identified by residents, the Planning Board and the Historic District Commission. R. Alexander discussed the Fox Run Mall challenges and potential housing located there. R. Alexander discussed conceptual ideas. A plan could be for retail, entertainment, restaurants and also include residential, workforce housing as well as senior lifestyle/age-in-place components. Benefits would be; more property taxes collected by the town, multigenerational housing, an increase in employment and added services. By positioning residential near retail the area becomes a village. J. Wisnicwski presented various concepts that included; combining residential and retail with green space, a mall with apartments on top. B. Raymond discussed the Bedford development by the highway.

Seacoast Economic Development Stakeholders (SEDS):

M. Roy updated the committee on the grants that the SEDS is applying for.

Taylor Caswell, Commissioner NH Dept of Business and Economic Affairs Conference Call:

B. Raymond discussed having Paul Deschaine attend the next Taylor Caswell meeting. It was a consensus of the committee to see what P. Deschaine thinks about attending it and seeing if it is worthwhile.

Review of Budget and Warrant Articles:

M. Roy said that the Selectmen's packets for Town Meeting will be available on Tuesday afternoon.

J. Miamis asked for an update on the business survey summary from the business appreciation event and previous business visitation interviews and items that need to be resolved.

Discussion ensued about getting educated about the Tax-Exempt Law, being involved in the Dover/Somersworth/Rochester EDC group, advertising in the NH Business magazine, appointment to the BOEM Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force, the future of the mall.

B. Raymond would like there to be more presentations by other development groups.

Adjournment: B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 7:54pm. B. Raymond seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha S. Roy, Town Administrator