

Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 29th, 2019 Town Hall

3pm: Members of the committee took a boat tour of Newington's waterfront industries

Present: Chair, Jeff Hiatt, Jill Boynton, Mike Donahue, Dave Caswell, John Lamson, Selectman Ted Connors, Selectman, Ken Latchaw, Town Planner, Jerry Coogan, Geno Marconi, Director of NH Ports and Harbors, Roger Groux, Chair of NH Ports and Harbors Advisory Council and Town Administrator Martha Roy.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Geno Marconi distributed a power point presentation.

There has been a 22% increase in cargo since 2017. The number of ship has gone from 157 in 2017 to 195 in 2018. There are windmills going to Antrim. They will provide power for 4,000 homes.

In 1987 an Army Corp of Engineers report called for the replacement of the Sarah Long bridge. The project was completed last year. The new bridge can take on a 750 foot ship with a draft of 35 feet. J. Lamson asked NH is now competitive with this new bridge. G. Marconi responded yes. The Badger Island turning apron is also being expanded. This is part of the Army Corp of Engineers budget. We are the last choke point in the New England shipping corridor.

G. Marconi showed the committee the plans for the State pier in Portsmouth. Two extensions are being added on the north and south sides of the main wharf. The ships can hang out off the end of the wharf and be secured safely. \$12,000 was applied for and received through the USDOT and \$7.6 million will come from the Federal government to rehab the facility. This upgrade will allow direct access from the street to the ship. This will allow them to handle oversized cargos more efficiently. The railroad has been upgraded into Newington.

J. Lamson asked if there was interest in a container facility. G. Marconi said there was, but it won't be as large as the one in Boston due to the height requirements of the Sarah Long bridge. Post Panamax vessels have doubled or tripled the old Panamax ships.

"Just in time delivery" is making shipping via container not as economical.

R. Groux told the committee about three projects that are ongoing in New York. The State is responsible for renewal energy, windmills are better than solar cells. Navy Yard projects are up for \$3 million, access to a navy yard is very important. 3 spools of cable came in yesterday for the Eversource project.

J. Lamson asked what the status of the Mahoney property on Shattuck Way. G. Marconi advised the committee to protect that property as much as you can because if you lose it, you will never be able to get it back. G. Coogan discussed concern with what the Mahoney property would be used for. M. Donahue suggested that the committee should have a discussion with the property owner.

G. Marconi discussed the Foreign Trade Zone in NH. Newington is included in this zone.

R. Groux told the committee that the new fire boat is very well equipped. The Fire Chief did a good job. G. Coogan explained that Sea-3 had a roll in the planning as well.

G. Coogan updated the committee on the projects in Newington.

141 Shattuck Way- the proposed hotel received four variances at the last Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting.

90 Arboretum Way- a new office building is proposed

Seacoast Helicopters has been approved for an expansion.

Two new subdivisions have been proposed in Newington. One behind Hannah Lane and one on Trickey Cove.

A Subaru dealership has been proposed for the old Toys R Us site.

Northeast Credit Union's corporate headquarters are going into the old Great Bay School site.

A new office building is going into the old China Buffet site.

The committee discussed the need to have crossing from Piscataqua Road to the Mall. The committee discussed the value of having a Planning Board member attend the EDC meetings.

A subcommittee may be developed to discuss the Mahony property plans for the 60 acre lot.

M. Donahue recommended that a Planning Board member sit on the Economic Development Committee. J. Lamson seconded the recommendation with all in favor.

M. Donahue asked that zoning lines be added to the plan (background color to distinguish?) G. Coogan will contact.

M. Roy will check on the hosting cost for the budget.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Roy
Town Administrator