

**Town of Newington, NH  
Economic Development Committee  
Non-Meeting Notes (Lack of quorum)  
Thursday, October 28, 2021 – Town Hall**

**Attending Meeting:**

Chair Jeff Hiatt, Mike Donahue, Selectman Chair Ted Connors, Bob Raymond, Ken Latchaw and EDC Coordinator Karen Anderson

**Absent:** Jill Boynton, Judy Miamis, Alicia Busconi, Brandon Arsenault

J. Hiatt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**Minutes Approval:** K. Latchaw moved to approve the minutes of September 30, 2021. T. Connors seconded the motion. Approved.

Chairman Hiatt noted that there was not a quorum at this time, although B. Arsenault indicated that he would be attending. The vote to approve the minutes will have to be taken again at that time.

**Old Business**

**1. Business Appreciation Event Debrief**

J. Hiatt said that it was a great event with 49-50 people attending and the businesses provided some excellent feedback to the committee members. M. Donahue noted that it was important that we had a good turnout, with an excellent cross section of the Newington businesses. The businesses that were represented will be listed in the Business Newsletter and attached to these notes.

M. Donahue suggested that the working group for the event meet to review the logistics and what was learned from the event. It was evident that personal contact was the most successful method for getting people to come.

T. Connors said that the event went well and efforts are already being taken to resolve some of the concerns that the businesses raised.

**2. Retail Sector Update**

Alicia was not available to attend the meeting.

**3. Budget Update / 2022 Budget Submission**

M. Roy told the committee that the budget was in excellent shape with \$8,834.89 spent and \$5,809.11 remaining.

The marketing line in the 2022 budget has been reduced to \$4,000 to more accurately reflect the costs for one annual event. The Budget Committee will be meeting to review

the 2022 budget on December 1<sup>st</sup>. J. Hiatt had presented a list of accomplishments to the Selectmen at that review and similar information will be prepared for the Budget Committee.

M. Roy is going to follow-up with B. Arssenault on the company that he had told the Board about for website statistics.

### **Report on Conference Calls**

#### **4. Seacoast Economic Development Roundtable**

The weekly calls were reviewed. An interesting note was the potential impact on economic development and quality of life as the result of the NH DHHS reporting that no additional hospital beds are going to be permitted. The focus of the committee at this time is reviewing area Master Plans and Economic Development Plans to find common issues that the committee can work on.

#### **5. NH Department of Business & Economic Affairs**

B. Raymond told the committee that the BEA was taking applications for Emergency Equipment Grants. The state anticipated 32 million visitors this year for Fall foliage.

#### **6. Commercial Development Update**

There was no Planning Board update this month from Mr. Krebs. T. Connors reported that he and M. Roy, M. Donahue met with the President and Vice President of Northeast Credit Union in an effort to keep the lines of communication open. The meeting was well received and at this time the company had no decision on the proposed new building.

#### **7. E. News Articles**

The draft newsletter was distributed for review. A list of the businesses that attended the event will be added.

#### **8. Joint Meeting with Planning Board Review**

T. Connors said that the Planning Board appreciated the joint meeting and said there was some good conversation about the possible tax incentive for new business construction. The Planning Board is receptive to working with the EDC.

B. Raymond asked if there were any tangible agreements reached. J. Hiatt said that there was no agreement requested, the goal was to open communications and work cooperatively, and that was accomplished. It was important to better understand each other's roles. B. Raymond suggested that there be a liaison between the committees. M. Donahue said that the Town Planner used to fill that role and for that to happen with J. Krebs the budgets would have to be adjusted and Mr. Krebs would need to have the time available to do so. J. Hiatt noted that the Planning Board has been good about having a representative attend most of the EDC meetings.

B. Raymond will look at towns that have good working relationships between the Planning Board and the Economic Development Committee and bring that model back the committee for review. M. Donahue explained the statutory requirements that are imposed on Planning Board's to remain neutral on proposals; they are not able to be involved with the recruitment and encouragement of businesses to build in Newington.

#### **9. Continued Discussion - Property Tax Incentive – RSA 72:81**

J. Hiatt said that he believes that the tax incentive is a good concept to proceed with. T. Connors said that the Board of Selectmen want to bring it to the voters. J. Hiatt said that anything that can draw businesses to build or expand in Newington is a good thing, although he noted that Brandon's concern had been that Newington already has an attractive tax rate as an incentive and wasn't sure if an additional incentive was needed.

T. Connors said a public forum to discuss the incentive could be helpful. M. Donahue suggested inviting D. Winham, Exeter's Economic Development Director to come and explain the incentive.

B. Raymond asked if the power plants were to leave, what would the impact be to the town. He noted that the buildings would still exist. K. Anderson explained that unlike most commercial buildings, the power plants value is largely based on income and the percentages that they are operating. M. Donahue said that there is some repurposing of the power plants that could be done.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Meeting Schedule**

**2.**

Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM was established as the tentative next meeting date. K. Anderson will check with members for availability.

December 1<sup>st</sup> – Budget Committee review.

#### **Adjournment**

J. Hiatt adjourned the non-meeting at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Anderson  
Economic Development Coordinator