

**Town of Newington, NH
Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 26, 2021 – Town Hall**

Attending Meeting:

Chair Jeff Hiatt, Mike Donahue, Selectman Chair Ted Connors, Bob Raymond, Judy Miamis, Jill Boynton, Brandon Arsenault and EDC Coordinator Karen Anderson

Absent: Michael Donahue, Brandon Arsenault

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

Minutes Approval: T. Connors moved to approve the minutes of July 29, 2021.
J. Miamis seconded the motion. Approved. (Arsenault abstained).

New Business

New Construction Tax Incentive – RSA 72:81

The potential recommendation of the new construction tax exemption was discussed further. The need to show public benefit was pointed out and whether or not the incentive would be established as set percentages or handled on a case by case basis, within the state parameters. Newington has one of the most competitive tax rates on the Seacoast and there was discussion on why an additional incentive would be considered. Contrasting with the tax rate, Newington's sewer rates are amongst the highest in the Seacoast.

It is hoped that with the incentive in place, there will be previously approved projects, such as Northeast Credit Union that will move forward with construction.

J. Miamis noted that it will be important to have an educational meeting for the community to explain this tax exemption and how it can benefit Newington.

Joint Meeting with Planning Board

The mission of the Economic Development Committee and the Planning Board are best met when they can work together and the goal is for the boards to be advisory to each other rather than adversarial. B. Arsenault and T. Connors will work together to try and set up a joint meeting.

Business Appreciation Effort

Alicia Busconi was not able to attend tonight, but provided an email stating that McGovern Subaru was willing to work with the committee for a Business Appreciation event in November.

J. Miamis told the committee that Stoneface has agreed to host a Business Appreciation event on a Monday or Tuesday evening and provided pricing for 50-75 people. It would be a stand-up event with finger foods and each person would be given 2 drink tickets. A cash bar would also be available. The cost would be \$3,500-\$4,000. The theme "Celebration

of Survival” was mentioned to recognize Newington’s businesses for their efforts to maintain their businesses during the pandemic.

The committee decided that Stoneface would work the best for this event and the date of October 5th was suggested. J. Miamis will confirm the date availability with Stoneface and K. Anderson will coordinate the publicity.

B. Raymond said that he has not completed the medical community article and will be working on it this month.

Report on Conference Calls

NH Department of Business & Economic Affairs

B. Raymond told the committee that the recent call was focused on the new Housing Program and noted that 99% of NH communities applied for the grant opportunities.

Seacoast Economic Development Roundtable

The weekly calls were reviewed. The Build Back Better project has been the focus and the group will be putting together an application for funding based on “Blue Economy” highlighting the location on the Seacoast with projects about aquaculture, off-shore wind development and training a workforce that will be prepared for those industries. Each member was to select an area of the project to work on and I will be representing Newington’s EDC on the manufacturing aspect of the grant application.

Planning Board Update

John Krebs submitted that there was nothing new before the Planning Board at this time. Subcom is working on a 140,000+ building expansion (creel storage) adding 2-5 employees and will hopefully be approved early this Fall; Georgia Pacific has plans to add +-100,000 s.f. of space but no application has been received to date. Stoneface Brewery is in the early stages of their application to build a new brewery on Shattuck Way.

Budget Review

M. Roy told the committee that the budget was in good shape and copies of the expenditure reports were given to the members. The Business Appreciation event will utilize a good portion of the budget.

Next Meeting

September 30th 6:00 PM

Adjournment

J. Hiatt adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Anderson
Economic Development Coordinator