

**Town of Newington, NH
Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 30, 2021 – Town Hall**

Attending Meeting:

Vice Chair Michael Donahue, Selectman Chair Ted Connors, Bob Raymond, Judy Miamis, Ken Latchaw, Alicia Busconi, Jill Boynton
Martha Roy, Town Administrator
EDC Coordinator Karen Anderson

Absent: Jeff Hiatt, Brandon Arsenault

M. Donahue called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Minutes Approval: K. Latchaw moved to approve the minutes of August 25, 2021 as revised to reflect that Brandon Arsenault was not absent. A. Busconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Business Appreciation Event

M. Donahue noted that the planned Business Appreciation Event is not a “mixer” or “party” but rather a way to encourage business retainage, particularly after the difficult year many businesses had due to Covid. This event was initially planned for 2019 and had to be cancelled due to Chief Sabines death.

J. Miamis designed the invitations which have been distributed via email and regular mail. Members have been contacting businesses to extend personal invitations as well. K. Anderson will put together 3-4 baskets for door prizes, make sure that name tags are printed for the guests. Judy will design recognition awards for M. Phillips “Visionary Award”; Newest businesses – Crumbl Cookies and One Love Cuisine*; and McGovern Subaru for re-use of an existing building.

K. Latchaw suggested that questions be developed for members to ask the businesses about what their needs are and learn how Newington may help. T. Connors will welcome the guests and have J. Hiatt explain the role of the Economic development Committee and explain that the charge of the committee is to reach out to the business community to assist with their success.

2. Joint Meeting with Planning Board Debrief

M. Donahue said that it was a positive meeting. It would be appropriate to postpone this agenda item to the next meeting with J. Hiatt present.

3. Continued Discussion – Property Tax Incentive RSA 72:81

This was postponed to the October meeting.

4. Retail Update

Alicia Busconi told the committee that the commercial focus right now is on the holiday season and if shoppers will return to the physical shopping, if events like “Black Friday” will happen. Looking toward 2022, the use of parking lots with drive-up capability and shorter-term parking will continue to be discussed.

*Added prior to event to balance honorees between our two major retail centers.

Alicia Busconi said that the most active tenants looking for space currently are electric charging station vendors, including Tesla and Charge Any Where. Newington is a prime location between the two highways. Typically, the businesses lease space within existing parking lots.

5. Report on Conference Calls

Bob did not have anything to report this month.

6. Seacoast Economic Development Roundtable

K. Anderson explained the groups efforts to submit an application for federal funds under the Build Back Better grant that will focus on the Blue Economy. A draft letter has been prepared for the committee to submit with the application. M. Donahue will review the letter and make appropriate edits to personalize for Newington. The committee authorized the letter of support to be submitted when completed. The deadline for submission to C. French is October 15th.

7. Commercial Development Update

C. Cross was present and told the committee that Stoneface has begun the process for a new building on Shattuck Way. Applications for residential subdivisions are in process.

8. Waterfront Industrial Update

M. Donahue told the committee that there is forward progress on the turning basin project which will be very important to SubCom, Sprague and Sea 3. He explained that the size of the ships that can come and go safely will be improved. The diameter of the basin is currently 850' and the efforts are to enlarge it to 1,200'. The bids came in above the amount that was appropriated. Through the efforts of the Port Authority and the Pease Development Authority some bridge financing has been put together to allow the contractor to be signed and the work to begin.

9. E-News Articles

B. Raymond reported that he has completed three articles on medical facilities and will have more for the next newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget Review

M. Donahue suggested that for the 2022 Budget the "Events" line item be re-named "Marketing" and that \$1,000 from that account be moved into the wages line item. He explained that the committee is more fully participating in Seacoast EDC efforts and those benefits will continue to be seen.

K. Latchaw said that it would be helpful to have some information prepared for the Budget Committee that will show some tangible results from the efforts.

The EDC budget will be reviewed on October 12 with the Board of Selectmen and on October 28th with the Budget Committee.

K. Latchaw MOTIONED that the 2022 budget be level-funded and that information be provided about the importance of staying connected to the business community and that efforts will be made to create partnerships for future events.

J. Miamis SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Next Meeting

October 28, 2021 6:00 PM

Adjournment

M. Donahue adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Anderson
Economic Development Coordinator