

Town of Chesterfield Economic Development Committee

MINUTES April 21, 2016

Attendees

Jon Starbuck, chair, Mike Reed, Don Brehm, Judy Hueber.

Absent: Bob Brockmann, Blake Amacker, Jon McKeon Selectmen's Rep

Also in attendance: Town Administrator Rick Carrier

Jon S called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

The committee review the minutes of February 18th and approved them as written.

The committee discussed last month's Business Meet & Greet forum. The consensus was to call businesses in advance of the meeting in an attempt to increase attendance. The committee noted that Peoples Bank is very accommodating to hosting these events and the location is good, with adequate parking. For the next forum, the committee will seek out a presenter who is a businessman in town to speak on the benefit of doing business in Chesterfield. Don Emery was noted as a potential presenter.

Jon S informed the committee of a meeting he attended in Keene about the legislative process. Jon S takeaways from the meeting were:

- Judy Silva from New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) spoke that NHMA follows bills in the legislature that have potential impact on cities and towns.
- From NH Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED), Michael Bergeron and Mollie Kaylor did a presentation on the services DRED provides to attract new businesses to New Hampshire.
- Tim Murphy, from Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) presented on local issues in the Monadnock region to attract business, such as insufficient transit, fewer young people, low maintenance of roads and broadband. Also presented the economic impact of the recent closing of Vermont Yankee.

Jon S reported there is a greater sense of a regional focus in attracting businesses. He pointed out a Peterborough publication that noted the Monadnock Region, not individual towns. Jon S was approached by both Greg Johnson, a realtor from Swanzey and Sara Carbonneau, director of Planning & Community Development for the town of Swanzey. Sara is looking to get area economic development committees together to discuss the concept of a regional effort. Jon S will follow up with Sara.

For the next meeting, the committee will invite Michael Bergeron and Mollie Kaylor from DRED. Rick will reach out to James Corliss, planning board chairman to invite planning board members to attend. The members of the Board of Selectmen will be invited as well.

For the next EDC meeting, the committee will review the 8 purposes from the charge of the committee to establish committee goals for the upcoming year. In addition, the committee will consider what would be a good type of business for Chesterfield.

The committee would like to view the business portion of the upcoming master plan. Rick will check to see if the EDC can get a draft copy of that.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee will be May 19th @ 6:30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Submitted by: Rick Carrier