

# Town of Chesterfield Economic Development Committee

## MINUTES August 18, 2016

### Attendees

Jon Starbuck, chair, Mike Reed, Don Brehm, Bob Brockmann, Jorge Crespo

Absent: Judy Hueber, Jon McKeon Selectmen's Rep

Also in attendance: Town Administrator Rick Carrier

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

Jon welcomed Jorge to the Committee. Jorge commented that Vermont is looking to tax businesses, such as dentists. The Committee noted that Chesterfield would welcome businesses such as dentists. With Chesterfield's lower tax structure and proximity to Brattleboro, it was thought a dentist could move their practice to town, save on taxes and their clients would likely follow.

The committee review the minutes of July 28<sup>th</sup> and approved them as amended.

For town updates, Rick noted that Dead River is proposing a 30,000 gallon propane tank on commercial land on Mill Road and that the Selectboard wanted to know if the EDC wanted to weigh in. EDC members may attend the Planning Board meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> where the Dead River proposal will be discussed. Rick noted that Mark Lanoue was approved with conditions to sell vehicles from the ZBA. He still needs to go to the Planning Board for Site Plan approval. Mike inquired about the recent rumble strip forum. Bob noted it was well attended. Rick noted that the townspeople made it clear to NH DOT what their thoughts were regarding the rumble strips on Route 9.

Jon would like members to continue to attempt contact with businesses, a follow-up phone call if the business has not returned the call would be appropriate. The committee can discuss the findings at their next meeting.

It was noted that Highlander Arms and Pierre's Place need to be added to the business list. Jorge will introduce himself as a member of the EDC to Highlander Arms and Jon will do the same for Pierre's Place. Mike will update the business list.

The business list was discussed. It was noted that there aren't a lot of phone numbers or email addresses available. Mike will work on a postcard to businesses requesting updated phone and email addresses, as that will be beneficial for the businesses to post on the town's website.

The October business forum was discussed. Don will reach out to Don Emery of Ames Performance to see if he would be willing to have the business forum at his business. Further business forum discussion will take place for the September meeting, which the committee agreed to hold on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of September (September 22<sup>nd</sup>), instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday.

Jon asked what is the next step for the EDC committee. He suggested that there are two avenues to discuss. One is how to work with the existing businesses in town and two, how to attract new businesses. Regarding attracting new businesses, Jon suggested having a couple of teams work on 1) develop and update the asset list of what is available for businesses in town and 2) what types of business to attract, based on the Master Plan, which should be finalized soon.

Other business, Bob noted reiterated from the last meeting that there is a perception that the Planning Board and Zoning Board are not business friendly. It was noted that perception seems to come from people who have been denied their applications. It was also noted that applicants to the Planning Board that are well prepared have a better experience through the Planning Board process.

Rick mentioned that there was a suggestion at the Selectboard meeting that the town's letterhead appears dated. The Selectboard suggested the Economic Development Committee might want to review this suggestion. Jorge thought a contest to design a new letterhead might bring in some wonderful ideas. He suggested donating a gift certificate to the Chesterfield Inn for the winning entry. Jorge will work on the language and Rick will submit to the Board of Selectmen for their approval of the idea.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Submitted by: Rick Carrier