

**Town of Chesterfield
Economic Development Committee**

**MINUTES
May 18, 2017**

Attendees

Jon Starbuck, chair, Don Brehm, Jorge Crespo, Jeff Migneault

Absent: Mike Reed, Selectman representative Norman VanCor
Also in attendance: Town Administrator Rick Carrier

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

George Foskett, realtor from the Masiello Group, was introduced. He presented his perspective on business history of Chesterfield. He spoke to the advantages for businesses in Chesterfield, i.e. Route 9, I-91, recreation activities and disadvantages, i.e. no town water or sewer. He spoke to his perception that the planning board is not business friendly in Chesterfield. When questioned what surrounding town's planning boards were business friendly, George F. noted all planning boards in the area can be perceived as not friendly to business.

The committee thanked George for his insights on the business climate in the area and Chesterfield.

Jorge left the meeting at 7:15 pm

Nancy Dubosque from the Small Business Development Center SBDC in Keene spoke to the committee. She highlighted crowdfunding. From the SBDC handout: *Crowdfunding is the practice of sourcing small contributions from a large number of people to provide funding for a particular project or campaign, usually via the Internet and social media connections.* SBDC provides technical assistance for small businesses, including crowdfunding.

The committee thanked Nancy for the overview of crowdfunding and how the SBDC can assist small businesses.

The committee reviewed the minutes of March 16, 2017 and approved them as written.

Regarding the Old Town Office building, Don gave an overview of a tour he had of the building. Rick noted that the selectmen are looking for creative ideas on how to save the building by finding a use for it. The selectmen are investigating the cost of demolition that they may then bring to town meeting vote in 2018.

Jon would like committee members to continue to think of ideas on meeting subjects and format.

The committee will next meet on Thursday, June 15, 2017.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Submitted by: Rick Carrier