

ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

July 15, 2014

6:30 pm

Ashland Fire Station

Steering Committee Members Present

Susan MacLeod, Jill White, Cheryl Cox (Planning Board ex-officio), Steve Felton (Board of Selectmen ex-officio)

Ad Hoc Committee Members Present

Scott Stephens (Plymouth Regional Chamber of Commerce)

Others present

Rick Ash, Fran Newton, David Toth, Norm DeWolfe

This meeting of the Ashland Economic Development Committee was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairperson MacLeod.

Disposition of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Steve Felton to accept the minutes from the June 26, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Jill White. The vote was 4-0 in the affirmative.

Facebook Page

No update on the Facebook page. Cheryl Cox will communicate with Tara Leonard. Susan MacLeod suggested we also look into having an Economic Development page on the town website created. The select board will be discussing.

2014 Economic Development Academy

Steve Felton will be attending the UNH Cooperative Extension 2014 Economic Development Academy. It will begin in August and consists of both classroom and online training over several months.

Squam River Studios

There was an article published in the Laconia Daily Sun on July 12, 2014 about Shandra McLane and the Squam River Studios in Ashland. Ms. McLane was recognized by Senator Jeannie Forrester for the revitalization of the old savings bank building in Ashland. She was presented with the NH Preservation Alliance Award.

There was no indication how Senator Forrester became aware of the work done by Ms. McLane. Jill White volunteered to follow up and conduct an interview to find out more detail about how the process worked for her.

Heritage Commission

A member of the Moultonboro Heritage Commission will be attending the Planning Board work session on July 30. There would be many opportunities for an Ashland Heritage Commission, if in place, to work with the Economic Development Committee to work on common goals.

Discussion

Rick Ash voiced concern that there is a general feeling of disconnect between business and town government. There is also a lack of understanding by the general public on how town government works, particularly the process required for opening a business. Though information is on the town website and published in local newspapers about public meetings and hearings, there seems to be confusion and some misinformation out there. Further discussion will be needed on how to best address these issues.

Economic Development Forum

Jill White has contacted Mark Scarano and Barry Gaw about their assistance on this committee. They are both willing to help when their schedules allow. Steve Felton provided a handout to outline the steps needed to conduct a forum. (See attachment.) After some discussion it was decided that it is important to involve business owners on a more personal level.

Next Step

The consensus of the committee was, in order to better prepare for an open forum, we need to understand what we have in place now and why they are here. The next step is to set up meetings with an initial group of Ashland business owners to interview each and get feedback on the following questions:

- Does the AEDC mission statement make sense, if not how would you change it?
- What made you decide to locate your business in Ashland and why do you choose to stay in Ashland?
- What types of businesses do you think would compliment yours and do well in Ashland?
- What can the town and/or the AEDC do to help keep your business in Ashland?

Business Contacts

The following interviews were agreed to and should be completed by August 15 so the results can be discussed at the next meeting. Committee members may have others participate where needed and should inform the committee on dates of interviews and requests for assistance.

Committee Member/Other	Business	Business Owner
Jill White	Riveredge Marina/Squam River Landing	Barry Gaw
Jill White	Hiltz Construction	Jeremy Hiltz
Jill White	Village Pizza and Grill	Suzie McKinney
Jill White	Ashland Insurance Center for Poulos Ins.	Sherry Norman
Jill White	Bob's Shurfine	Terry
Jill White and Rick Ash	Northern Lakes Veterinary	Don Lester

Rick Ash	Belletetes	Dan Uhlman
Steve Felton	Common Man	Moe Lafreniere
Steve Felton	Fermentation Station	
Steve Felton	Samyn-D'elia Architects	Tom Samyn
Susan MacLeod	Fret Shop	Dave Colburn
Susan MacLeod	Northway Bank	Mark Allgood

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 6:00 at the Ashland Fire Station, ***unless notified otherwise.***

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Cox