

ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES June 29, 2015 6:30 pm Ashland Fire Station

Steering Committee Members Present

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

Absent with Notice

Jill White

Ad Hoc Committee Members Present

Lee Nichols, Superintendent (Ashland Electric Department), Scott Stephens (Central NH Chamber of Commerce), Jae Demers

Others present

Glenn Copleman, Norm DeWolfe, Kathleen DeWolfe, Mardean Badger, Jane Felton, David Toth, Fran Newton

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairperson MacLeod.

Meeting Minutes

Steve Felton made a motion to accept the minutes from the May26th meeting. The motion was seconded by Susan MacLeod. The motion carried 3-0.

GIS Sub-committee Update

Members: Steve Felton, Michelle Roberts, Norm DeWolfe, Eli Badger

Steve Felton reported that the steering committee will be meeting to determine all appropriate layers of information have been identified.

Marketing Sub-committee Update

Members: Cheryl Cox, Jae Demers, Fran Newton, Lee Nichols, Jill White

Cheryl Cox reported the team is planning to schedule a “meet and greet” for Ashland businesses on Sept. 22. Several more business owners have agreed to attend. A location needs to be confirmed.

Land Available Sub-committee Update

Members: Susan MacLeod, Eli Badger Paul Branscombe, Lee Nichols

The effort to catalog all commercial and industrial properties is on-going.

EDA Grant Application

Glenn Copleman attended the meeting to review the EDA grant application and to discuss next steps to prepare for completing and submitting the application. The application will be completed by Glenn through GRANTS.gov with appropriate information provided by the AEDC. The application is lengthy but not all sections will need to be completed. Appropriate sections for our purposes are A, C, E, G and Exhibit C.

Steve Felton provided a handout (See attachment #1, 2 pages) summarizing what we intend the Ashland Economic Development plan should include. Susan MacLeod also provided a handout on strategic planning. (See attachment 2).

An important note, when requesting federal grant money, money already spent cannot be included as matching funds, as previously thought. Glenn will need to determine the parameters for monies that may be used as matching funds. The town has no money available to be used as matching funds for grants.

In order to know how much grant money we will be requesting, the first thing that must occur is getting cost estimates from one or more consultants for the work we would like to have done to develop an economic development plan, which is the purpose of the grant. The plan developed may then be used as part of the application process for future grants. Most, if not all grant applications require a detailed business plan. The NH Municipal Association, the Lakes Region Planning Commission, PSU and MRI are possible contractors that we may request work estimates from. The request for bids will need to come from the Board of Selectmen. Steve will contact MRI.

CDFA Grants

The Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) also offers grants. There are two rounds of grant funding each year, in April and October. Beno, who sits on the Board of Directors, will look into grants Ashland may be interested in. He will also ask someone from CDFA to attend a future AEDC meeting. Any funds acquired through a state grant may be used as matching funds for a federal grant. (www.nhcdfa.org)

General Discussion

Beno will invite someone from the Portland, ME office of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to a future AEDC meeting. (www.eda.gov)

Some discussion took place on the potential positive impact Whitten Woods may have on Ashland's future economic development. All at zero cost to the town. For more information go to: www.foreversquam.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, **July 27, 2015 at 6:30 pm** at the Ashland Fire Station, ***unless notified otherwise.***

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Cox