

ASHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

January 30, 2017

6:30 pm

Ashland Fire Station

Steering Committee Members Present

Susan MacLeod, Cheryl Cox (Planning Board ex-officio), Steve Felton (BOS ex-officio)

Steering Committee Members Absent

Beno Lamontagne

Ad Hoc Committee Members Present

Kathleen DeWolfe (Conservation Commission), David Toth (Water & Sewer Commission),

Ad Hoc Committee Members Absent

Lee Nichols (Ashland Electric Department)

Others present

Katie Maher, Fran Newton

Meeting Minutes

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

There were no meeting minutes requiring approval. The October–December meetings either did not have a quorum or were cancelled.

Broadband Access

Katie Maher reported on discussions she has been involved in with UNH representatives regarding Broadband access in Ashland. Katie consults for PSU and became aware of the joint project of UNH and the state of NH to install 1000 miles of cable to improve Broadband access in the state. She learned that about two years ago cables were installed in areas of Ashland by the electric department. She met with Lester Brent, the IT specialist for Ashland Elementary School. Mr. Brent will be submitting appropriate forms in February and money to hook up and money for the project will be awarded in April. The representatives from UNH are eager to work with Ashland to have it be the first town in the state to hook up to Broadband. The school would be the first town building to be hooked up and there is potential for all town buildings to be hooked in. Since there is cable already installed, the cost would be only to run cable from the poles to each building. Currently it costs about \$2000 per month for internet access at the town office. This cost could be reduced to about \$600 per month with much faster access speed.

These are initial discussions and there is much to be considered. The initial costs of running cable to each building, prioritizing buildings to hook up, could businesses hook up, safety concerns, and others. However, this would be a long term technology solution for the school, town office, police and fire departments at a limited cost. UNH is covering much of the cost and LRPC also has grant money available for Broadband projects.

Brownfields

NOBIS is currently working on the Phase 2 Brownfields assessment of the mill building. The previous building owner is meeting with NOBUS to assist in the process.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 27 @ 6:30 at the fire station.

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Cox