

**Economic Development Committee
Town of Durham
Minutes of September 29, 2003**

Present: John Aber, Richard England, Ryan Harold, Joe Murdoch, Neil Niman, Steve Roberts, Pat Samuels

1. There was a brief discussion of recruiting additional members to the committee.
2. The committee then spent the remainder of the meeting discussing what an economic development focus for Durham might mean:
 - There was general agreement that economic development should be construed broadly to include community and cultural development.
 - Joe Murdoch proposed lighting for night soccer, making Durham a cultural destination, pursuing the southern bypass, development of a theatre and student housing.
 - Richard England proposed protection of family neighborhoods from student rentals, creation of affordable housing, attraction of eco-friendly businesses that don't create traffic congestion, use of commuter rail to attract visitors, and improved cell phone service.
 - Pat Samuels proposed galleries and a theatre, student housing, a cultural center, the entrepreneurial campus, waterfront development (marinas, kayak rentals, etc.)
 - Steve Roberts proposed the hotel project, industry at isolated sites, commercial outlets for nonstudents.
 - Neil Niman proposed student housing near campus (Spinney Lane) and industrial development near Heidelberg.
 - John Aber raised the issues of library siting and identification of the town center (Main Street, Gasoline Alley).
 - The entire group envisioned the possibility of a new commercial area linking Gasoline Alley and the waterfront (hotels, cafes, shops).
 - It was agreed to explore four development thrusts: (1) the Route 4 office park (both sides of road); (2) more development along Technology Drive; (3) student housing near campus; and (4) waterfront commercial development.
3. The committee agreed to meet on Thursday, October 23, and Monday, October 27.