

Draft Minutes

Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes 11/29/07

Present: Chris Mueller, Jason Lenk, Karl Van Asselt, Mark Morong

Staff: James Campbell, Director of Planning and Community Development

Guests: Neil Niman

- I. Meeting was called to order at 7:35 am
- II. Election of Officers
Karl Van Asselt moved, and Mark Morong seconded, the following slate of officers: Chris Mueller, Chair; Jason Lenk, Vice Chair; and Karl Van Asselt Secretary. The motion passed 4-0.
- III. Meeting schedule
Jason Lenk moved, and Karl Van Asselt seconded, that the Economic Development Committee (EDC) meet on the second Friday of the month at 7:30 AM. The motion passed 4-0.
- IV. Next Steps
The EDC reviewed the draft 2008 Action Plan presented by Mr. Campbell. The Committee added two new High Priority items to the list. The new #8 will be "Work with the Town Council to help define opportunities for the location of future public buildings and facilities as such locations relate to economic development". Discussion centered on moving the town hall and building a new library. The new # 9 would read "In cooperation with the Town Council, revitalize the 2007 Housing Task Force and work with that group to address issues as they relate to the economic impact of housing in Durham". Mr. Niman gave a brief history of the group and would like the EDC to review the work done by them and to help them along in any way possible.

The Committee also discussed student housing as an economic development tool in general and the water and sewer issues related to the housing. In addition the Committee discussed becoming more active in business retention and expansion. The Committee also discussed the need to take on a role similar to the Conservation Commission and begin to weigh in on issues related to economic development.

The Committee also discussed working with, and keeping up with, what the University plans are for housing as well as other activities.

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VI. Miscellaneous

Mr. Campbell gave the Committee an update on the progress with Chinburg Builders for the Durham Business Park. Chinburg Builders continues to work with NHDOT on issues related to traffic and has been in discussions with interested parties. The parcel has also been resurveyed and the wetlands have delineated again.

VII. Next Agenda and Assignments

The Committee will discuss the Housing Task Force and properties and opportunities in Durham.

VIII. The Adjourned at approximately 9:00 AM.

Karl Van Asselt, Secretary