

Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2009

Present: Susan Fuller, Jason Lenk, Peter Ventura, and Chris Mueller

Absent: Doug Clark, Karl Van Asselt

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:38 am
- II. Public Comments
Julian Smith, Packers Falls Road
Mr. Smith asked if the Committee would add a new item on the agenda for “Approval of Agenda”. He also stated that more convenience was needed at the dump. The dump should be open more hours and days so it can be used more. Perhaps there would be a chance to have some type of convenience store/coffee shop there.
- III. Approval of the Minutes
There committee approved the November 14th, 2008 and December 19, 2008 minutes.
- IV. Research/Marketing Study
The committee discussed the project the marketing class at UNH will be helping them with and the Statement of Work that will be presented to the class. The survey they will perform will ultimately be used to create a marketing plan for the Town of Durham. There was some discussion on the validation of the study and who will make sure that happens. It was stated that Professor Marsucci will be validating the survey. The Committee would like to use the results in attracting businesses to Durham. A motion was made to approve the Statement of Work. Susan Fuller moved, and Peter Ventura seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.
- V. Strategic Plan
Chair Mueller stated that he would like to assign tasks for the Strategic Plan. The Committee agreed to the following: Susan Fuller will work on Section I, Plan Summary; Section II, Visions and Goals will remain as is but item C, Implementation Actions, will be removed from this section; Section III, Demographics and Economic Conditions and Section IV, Commercial and Industrial Assets, will be worked on by Jim Campbell; Section V, SWOT Analysis, will be worked on by Peter Ventura, Jason Lenk, Chris Mueller, and Jim Campbell; Section VI will be determined at a later date; Section VII will be re-titled as Implementation Plan with subsection A being Recommended Policy Initiatives and Section B being Economic Initiatives; Section VIII, Action Plan, will be determined at the end of the process.

- VI. 2009 Action Plan
The Committee went through the Action Plan and updated some information. The Committee discussed Jason Lenk's continued efforts with the Durham Business Association. In addition, Jim Campbell will continue his efforts in engaging outside expertise and resources. Peter Ventura agreed to look into the development of a business visitation program.
- VII. Alternates
The Committee discussed the upcoming Council meeting at which there will be a public hearing on the Committee's request to have two alternates.
- VIII. Project List for Stimulus Package
Due to time constraints, this issue was not discussed.
- IX. Other Business
There was no other business to discuss.
- X. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 am.