

Economic Development Committee

Friday, January 23, 2009

Present: Chris Mueller, Jason Lenk, Susan Fuller, Peter Ventura,
James Campbell, Director of Planning & Community Development
Todd Selig, Town Administrator

- I. Meeting Called To Order at 7:35 am
- II. Agenda Approved: motion to approve Ms. Fuller; second Mr. Lenk
- III. Public Comments
Julian Smith encouraged committee members to attend to Town Council Meeting to pursue getting additional members added to Economic Development Committee.
Mr. Smith stated the project list developed for the stimulus package was too long. He asked that the Economic Development Committee help the Town Council to create a more fundable and grantable wish list along with something new for the project list for the stimulus package.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
1/9/09 minutes: motion to approve Ms. Fuller; second Mr. Ventura
- V. Research/Marketing Study
The committee reviewed a PowerPoint created to convey that statement of work from last meeting. It was determined to add some additional comments on how town governance is organized as background for the students. The rest of the presentation was approved. The presentation is next Wednesday. Mr. Mueller and Mr. Lenk will attend.

The 2009 budget for this committee for \$6150 was approved by the Town Council. It includes \$200 for professional development. Mr. Mueller asked if that will get the group far. Mr. Campbell explained as it covers fees for seminars, it will probably get a couple of people to a couple of places. Mr. Mueller asked Mr. Campbell to send a notification of upcoming events.
- VI. Conservation Commission
Ms. Fuller: reviewed her meeting with conservation commission last month. The group essentially talked about two parcels: the north side of Beech Hill Road and the parcel on Mill Road that was just rezoned.
Concerns on Mill Road, surrounds the water protection and the Oyster River. They are not opposed to development, but feel the existing ordinance doesn't do a good enough to protect the water. IT was noted that clean drinking water could be considered a good economic resource for the town as dirty water can be expensive to clean.
Mr. Campbell agreed and noted that the Shore land protection is in progress. It included an additional 150 foot set back.
Ms. Fuller agreed and noted that the Conservation commission also wants to have 20-30% lot coverage.

On the Beech Hill Road: The north side is owned in a partnership with Lee and Madbury. The committee is trying to create a green zone feeling the north side is a sensitive watershed area for the OR but South side is okay.

They would look at specific proposals and suggested a joint site walk to review the configuration of the land. Most they feel is not conducive to development due to sloping property.

In summary Conservation Committee still has concerns, and as the committees move forward they suggest a matrix for zoning changed and management of zoning changes by objectives

Mr. Mueller agreed with the Conservations Committees collaborative thinking and suggested creating a matrix to use when looking at each opportunity or planning.

VII. Update on Strategic Plan

The Plan summary was reviewed. Mr. Mueller felt it is importance to show the historical part to understand the point in time in the economic situation, the demographic shifts. Ms. Fuller indicated the need to show the conflict and need to balance the community. Mr. Campbell offered other samples of a strategic plan. The timeline of the plan was discussed and it was determined that action and implementation will dictate the time frame.

It was determined to continue work on the plan summary and to include wider regional and state trends that impact the town as well.

Mr. Mueller noted the State had a regional Planning committee. Mr. Selig and Mr. Campbell explained that we currently have one representative, Mr. Stanhope. The committee deals with transportation enhancement, litigation monies, vehicular and sidewalk issues. The Town has used this committee for the work recently completed on Main Street near Thompson Hall. Strong representation from Durham enhances our ability to get money. They also discuss regional plans like changing the Little Bay Bridge. Part of the role of the representatives is to make their projects don't work against the town. It was noted that we should get a better representation in place.

The goals of the strategic plan were reviewed. Mr. Ventura noted linking the goals to the Master Plan which Ms. Fuller agreed and added that the committee should be included in the Master Plan. The ideas were supported by Mr. Ventura, and Mr. Campbell. Mr. Ventura also noted a review of the existing and new economic goals.

The SWOT analysis was discussed as key data for the strategic plan. It was decided that Mr. Ventura and Mr. Lenk could start to complete this possibly using upcoming meetings and the recent survey form the Durham Business Association. Mr. Campbell will coordinate the SWOT.

VIII. Update on Programs/ Tools

Campbell presented a chart on the action taken on the specific tools. These programs and tools need to be reviewed by multiple committees. This chart notes the committees involved and the process made so far.

IX. Project List for Stimulus Package

The town put together the list of projects for the Federal Stimulus Package. Feels that Federal Stimulus package is intended to put America back to work. Not intended to fund infrastructure for private but rather infrastructure for public or for items that are a priority for our community that are needed or will stimulate economic development.

Mr. Campbell and Mr. Selig agreed but noted the projects need to be 'shovel ready' within 180 days so the projects were ranked by readiness. All the projects went to Senator Sheehan's office. The Senator has noted that our plan is on track. Now we wait to see how the money will come to the town which is still unclear.

Mr. Selig recommended the committee review the list and identify the top priority.

Mr. Mueller noted that they would look for this at the next meeting so that if the money becomes available we could identify the source.

X. Other Business

Alternates

The Town Council approved two citizen alternates. Alternates will only replace the citizen member not the Town Council members. Town Council also eliminated one representative so there is only one.

There are people who are interested. Mr. Lenk requested a job description.

Items to be included: The committee is an advisory committee, Meets every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at 7:30 am. Alternate would be able to vote for a citizen when absent so attending meeting regularly would be highly recommended. Alternates can't vote during full attendance.

Mr. Mueller said he would have one next week. The opportunity is being solicited through the Friday Updates.

XI. Next Agenda and Assignments

Strategic plan everyone continues work on their section

Report on marketing workshops

Prioritize the Project list

Other development- association with UNH and Neil can you give us an overview?

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made at 9:13am by Mr. Ventura; seconded by Ms. Fuller.