

Economic Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 9, 2009

Present: Susan Fuller, Jason Lenk, Doug Clark, Chris Mueller, Tom Elliot

Absent: Pete Ventura

Staff: James Cambell

Jason left the meeting at 8:30

**I. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order

**II. Agenda**

There were no minutes to approve; Susan made a motion to remove, second by chair Mueller. All were in favor.

**III. Public Comments**

There were no public comments

**IV. External SWAT Analysis**

Tom stated that by going through the external SWAT it may give little to no additional benefit. Doug indicated that we should not utilize a lot of time on this and all agreed. Discussion began analyzing the external swat. A summary is as follows:

- a. Economic trends - Was deemed a threat due to credit of local businesses.
- b. Political Environment - looking at the following: State -threat (due to state taxes and unfriendly towards business); Federal -Opportunity; International - Opportunity
- c. Government Regulatory Bodies - It was broken down to federal and state, with a disregard for county. State and federal were classified as a threat.
- d. Legal - scratched and assessed under regulatory.
- e. Technology considered an opportunity.
- f. Competitors - Opportunity to build to compete with local area towns.

Trends and Developments (nature, impact and influence)

- a. Impact of minimum wage-Opportunity due to minimal amount of minimum wage jobs, with sufficient minimum wage workers.
- b. Change in Presidential leadership - minimal due to change already occurring.
- c. Aging of the nation - currently occurring, with a large impact and our capacity to influence is minimal on the current population with an opportunity for wellness for aging population.
- d. End of the cold war (stricken)
- e. Increase demand for workforce incentives - Possible need for retraining due to unemployment rates, currently ongoing, with the impact currently,
- f. Environmental degradation -Current opportunity due to current environment and push of a green country. The country is in a turning point with a capacity to influence.

g. US and International Trade Relations - Currently positive

**V. Added to Agenda Late Update**

Jason and Tom met with the person regarding Taste of New England. Jason indicated that it was a brief meeting. He had questioned if there was something that the town could have done to assist her. She indicated that side walk art displays and additional foot traffic would have helped. Tom stated that he met her on a separate occasion, whereby discussing the location and if it was the right business for the town. She indicated that it was a right business; however the location could have been better. She added that she was unimpressed with the town accepting and promoting a new business. Additionally she stated that the business group in town was of no benefit with additional businesses in town stating the same. Discussion followed to discuss the possible future of an official chamber of commerce; however a downtown association may still be needed.

**VI. Other**

It was stated by chair Mueller to move the strategic plan update to the following meeting due to timing and work on the business visitation program.

**VII. Business Visitation Program**

Tom mentioned to start up with going to the local businesses and to hold weekly meetings with businesses and residents. Susan indicated that she was concerned with holding such a meeting, and that it may turn into a complaint session for local businesses and residents rather than being constructive. Possible communication to the residents and the businesses could be done via the cable channel, Friday updates, visiting local businesses and word of mouth. Chair Mueller stated to review the DBA survey for future discussions.