

**ASHBURNHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

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**13 February 2017 - 6:30pm  
Public Safety Building Training Room**

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PRESENT: Bill Johnson, Chair, Chris McNabb, Leo Janssens II, John Enright, Ronald Putnam, Rosemarie Eldridge Meissner, Vice Chair, Jaclyn Wooding, Secretary, Joseph Kalagher, Deb Gardner (Missing: Christina Sargent)

- 1) OPENING REMARKS - Bill Johnson opened the meeting.
- 2) PRESENTATION OF MEMBER PRIORITIES - Bill passed floor to Meissner, who gave a prepared slide presentation of the Visioning Exercise from the 30 January meeting. Meissner's presentation includes items we value, our beliefs, our concerns and goals, as well as photographs of the architecture and attributes of various New England downtown areas. Various sections of Ashburnham were as included. An overview of this exercise will be submitted with these minutes as Appendix A.
- 4) OLD BUSINESS - Further discussion about current DPW site. Johnson reminds members that the next step is a Phase II 21E study, which has been applied for with the EPA. This will tell us what is in the ground. He then explains that a Phase III would give us a clean up plan, and that Phase IV would be to seek out new funding sources.
- 5) PUBLIC COMMENT - Local property owner Lori Saccone, of Fitchburg, mentions past experience with opening business in Ashburnham when her father opened his restaurant, the Victorian House, 32 years ago, and then later she wanted to open an equine facility, the Victorian Stables. She mentions the difficulty her family had with both ventures, and that as a property owner, she would like to see the town be more accepting of new businesses.
- 6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion to approve Minutes from 17 January 2017 is made by McNabb, seconded by Putnam. Motion passed 7-0-2 (Kalagher and Gardner abstained) Motion to approve Minutes from 30 January 2017 is made by Janssens, seconded by McNabb. Motion passed 7-0-2 (Kalagher and Gardner abstained)
- 7) FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE - Next meeting is planned for Tuesday, February 28, 6:30pm. Public Safety Building Training Room. (Meeting is later moved to Town Hall Downstairs Meeting Room due to a scheduling conflict.) Johnson asks members to email Meissner any short-term priorities.
- 8) ADJOURNMENT - Johnson calls meeting to a close. Meeting adjourned 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jaclyn Wooding, Secretary