

**Economic Development Committee
Special Meeting
August 6, 2009 at 7:10 P.M.
Town Hall**

Call to order at 7:00 P.M. Present: Pete Lewis, Ted Mackenzie, Angus McDonald, Tom Perry, Adam Schwartzman. Also present: Jodi Mislick Gebhard.

Agenda: directional signs, public relations position, presentation from Jodi Mislick

Jodi Mislick-Gebhard made presentation concerning 57 acres across from the existing Mislick Industrial Park, reviewed phases of research for development options over eight years. Desire for use to continue in the manner which her father Walter Mislick originally intended - to produce tax revenue for the town. Noted entrance options, due to expense of development there are limited types of commercial developers who could afford development of the land – such as box stores of 20,000-30,000 sq. ft. (not big box.) Concern with appearance of development, noted that it is not visible from the road. Question if the town would consider supporting box stores at this location. Have stressed ‘green’ development. Concern with putting in a large hardware store which would be competition to the local hardware store. Option to development as rail facility depot, town owned as means for income potential. Noted any development will be foot-print for whatever future use may be. Consideration to open up rail access to the land. Discussion of who to contact for government funding, what grant opportunities are available. Discussion to send a letter to the selectmen requesting assistance from Dale Koop to pursue grants or other funding to effect the development over the railroad tracks across from Kelsey Hill Road. Noted that the property is currently a detriment to the town tax basis since it is not accessible.

Discussion of electronic signs, photo samples presented for viewing, framing options for aesthetic appeal, means of communications of happenings in town such as performances at the Auditorium, where to locate - potentially at Devitts Field, additional means of communication to the outside world such as more frequent updates to the webpage. Concern with who and how a sign can be managed, costs, restrictions to what is displayed.

T. Mackenzie requested that a request be made at the next selectmen’s meeting to approve the development of the ‘Historic Deep River Town Hall Theatre’ sign, a brown metal sign, which the state is willing to fund at no cost to the town.

Discussion of a directional sign at the corner of Main and Elm Streets, as previously shown in a postcard from the 1920s when the post office was located in the town hall, in the existing sign pole location. Development of the sign as directional marker with inclusion of light on pole, not with an information kiosk. On MOTION made by T. Mackenzie, seconded by T. Perry, to send memo to selectmen to include discussion for directional signs development and funding, and funding of the Public Relations Position at the next selectmen’s meeting. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Adjournment: on MOTION made by A. McDonald, seconded by T. Perry, to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Guerette, C.O.A.