

Economic Development Committee
August 31, 2015 Minutes



Downtown Derry, NH (ca 1900)
Photo Courtesy of Richard Holmes

The Derry Economic Development Committee (EDC) met on August 31, 2015 in room 207 of the Municipal Center. Members in attendance were Tom Cardon, Mark Flattes, Sue Hickey, Terri Pastori, George Sioras, and Richard Tripp. Also in attendance, but not committee members, were Chris Black, Julie Huss, Anthony and Jennifer Picarello.

Meeting opened by chairman Cardon at six PM. Motion by Tom Cardon, second by George Sioras, to approve August 24, 2015 minutes as written. Motion passed.

Business Development Presentation – Michael Bergeron, Business Development Manager with New Hampshire Department of Resources & Economic Development (DRED), gave a presentation on economic development from a macro and micro perspective. His first comment was that it is difficult to have economic development when the economy is at best only limping along. Debt, at many levels, is also an impediment to growth as people and governments simply don't have the money to spend. Wage stagnation is an issue for those who do have jobs. Future workforce composition, retaining the millennials who will be the workers for the next forty years requires a shift not only in the workplace, but also in retailing and where they will live.

Mike then presented a snapshot of how Derry is currently faring economically with medical, education, and local government being the leading employers. A major shortcoming here is most of the money being spent is not being retained in the town. It is primarily a residential town with a large need for public services and low capacity for industrial growth.

What could be done to attract/retain business was then presented. Issues are:

- Streamlining of permit approval process
- Update of town website crucial to initial information search by businesses
- Importance of having point of contact in town hall to answer questions
- Knowing what Derry has to offer businesses looking to locate here

Local Business Contacts – Sue Hickey, the acting town administrator, reported she had been out meeting with local business, talking with them and getting input as to possible

actions to take to improve or attract business in Derry. Sue also said there will be a meeting with the website developer to discuss updates to the town website this week.

Review Committee Goals for Council Presentation – Chairman Cardon spoke on the committee goals he would present to the town council. Motion by George Sioras, second by Mark Flattes to accept goals as written, motion carried.

Economic Development Goals/Thoughts

- Tom Cardon – the brochures currently under development by Liz Robidoux need review for final format and content. Additional help with finishing this is needed. Also discussed changing meeting dates to first Monday and third Thursday at 6 PM.
- Terri Pastori – the Derry Economic Development Committee Facebook page is up and running. We need to announce its existence and monitor any comments. She also suggested the Derry Arts Council should have a liaison at EDC meetings
- Mark Flattes – current perspective is the EDC is a special committee. We need to make it a standing committee with a sense of permanence. Mention was made of the Windham EDC and the work they are doing. He also suggested putting together a “Support Local Business” day. Chairman Cardon will place this on the next meeting’s agenda.
- Janis Del Pozzo – made suggestion of “Discover Derry” as the new town motto.
- George Sioras – noted that Pawtucket RI Arts Council has an event where the park is used to promote local business through entertainment.
- General – now that Broadway Pet is down, what is going to be done with the space?

Motion by George Sioras, second by Tom Cardon to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM, next meeting September 17th at 6 PM.

Richard Tripp
EDC Secretary