Town of Farmington
Economic Development Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2015

**Committee Members Present:**
Ann Titus, Chairman
Denise Roy-Palmer
Resta Detwiler
Elaine Aylard
Martin Laferte, Planning Board Rep.

**Committee Members Absent:**Jodi Connolly, excused
Charlie King, Selectmen’s Rep., excused
Bill Tsiros

**Town Staff Present:**Regional Planner Liz Durfee

**1). Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:**Chairman Titus called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2). Public Comment:** None.

**3). Moose Mountain Regional Update:**Denise Roy-Palmer reported that date for the next meeting has been chosen but the location has yet to be determined. The group’s next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 6 p.m. she said.

**4). Update on TIF District:**Martin Laferte read an update from Planning Dept. Secretary Bette Gallagher regarding the status of the TIF and 79-e Districts. It takes voter approval of three warrant articles to complete approval of the district. Voters approved formation of the district in 2015 and two articles regarding the development and revenue plans and creation of an advisory committee will be included on the 2016 Town Meeting warrant if approved by Selectmen. A flyer, handouts, folders and a Power Point presentation are available. Selectman Jim Horgan suggested a video segment be developed about the district, possibly by recording a joint discussion by the EDC and the Planning Board and then televising it on the local cable TV channel regularly until March to reach as many residents as possible.
*79-e District*- This program which encourages the rehab and revitalization of the downtown area was approved in 2014. Planner Liz Durfee said since the town has already adopted the plan work can begin to market the program to attract property owners to participate in the program. The program involves receipt of up to a five year tax break on improvements to buildings which can also be extended if housing is included she said. Ms. Durfee added she will check to see if the district is included in the zoning ordinances and offered to provide a map of the 79-e District to the committee.

**5). Update on the Aquifer Protection Overlay District:**Ms. Durfee told the committee that the Planning Committee to update the ordinance includes Public Works Director Dale Sprague, Planning Board member Martin Laferte, Cons. Com. and EDC member Resta Detwiler and herself. She provided the committee with copies of a summary of a study commissioned by the NH Lakes, Rivers, Streams and Ponds Partnership, an update on facts about Farmington’s overlay district and the Power Point presentation conducted at the Planning Board meeting on August 18, 2015. Discussion included:
*Farmington’s Aquifer Protection Overlay District* – The handout includes the purpose of the overlay district, importance of protecting groundwater, threats to groundwater, facts about the Farmington aquifer and water quality, funding source for the project and additional resources and information.
*Power Point Presentation to the Planning Board*- The presentation included a ground water overview, why the existing overlay district needs to be revised, NH Groundwater Protection Act, resources and protection in Farmington and the update process and expected outcomes.
*What’s Our Water Worth?* – This handout depicts the economic impact of deteriorating water quality on recreational sales, income and jobs, the purpose of the study, methodology and its findings.
Ms. Durfee also discussed local potential threats to groundwater such as leaking storage tanks and mishandling of chemicals, three town wells are currently protected, expanding the protection area to include well #6, clarifying language regarding performance standards and best management practices and the limited number of prohibited uses in the protection areas.
She told the members that the Planning Committee has met three times so far and is working on reviewing the state’s model ordinance to develop an updated ordinance that is appropriate for Farmington while complying with state and local land use regulations and protecting the wells and groundwater supply. She provided a map showing the locations of the town’s wells with the existing overlay protection areas and pointed out the location of the proposed expansion to well six. She also pointed out the location of a potential new water source in an area north of Route 11 near the Rochester/Farmington town line.
Additional discussion included the importance of protecting water sources to prevent costly clean-ups, investigating future water sources, lack of clean water sources as a deterrent to attracting new business, the costly clean-up of existing brown fields and Super Fund site and creating standards to strengthen the town’s ability to protect its water sources.
Ms. Durfee said the committee plans to hold a community meeting during a workshop held by the Planning Board on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 6 p.m. She encouraged EDC members and residents to attend the meeting.

**6). Review Policies:**
Tabled until the next meeting due to the absence of Charlie King.

**7).Develop Goals and Objectives for the EDC:**Members suggested goals for 2015-16 should include promotion of the TIF District and review of the committee by-laws. The discussion will continue at the next meeting to allow the absent members to participate.

**8). Old Business:***A). Review of Minutes*- Sept. 8, 2015
**Motion:** (Aylard, second Detwiler) to approve the minutes as written passed unanimously.
*B).Sarah Greenfield Business Park Sign*- Chairman Titus reported that the Town Administrator contacted the company that built the sign to request they change the word “project” to “zone” at no cost to the town and the company representative refused the request. Chairman Titus said there is a Rochester sign company that will make the correction for $245 but the funds would come from the Sarah Greenfield funds which must be approved by the Board of Selectmen.
*C.) Vacancies*- Chairman Titus announced that member Jodi Connolly has resigned from the committee due to work schedule conflicts. She urged business owners and residents to consider joining the committee to help them promote business expansion and attract new business to town.
*D). Proposed By-laws Update*: Postponed.

**9). New Business:***EDC Folders-* Elaine Aylard reported that 21 of 61 EDC folders are missing. She will investigate the matter of the missing information.

**10). EDC Blast**- Chairman Titus asked for information to be included in the next monthly EDC e-mail blast. Members determined it should focus on attracting new committee members and contain information about how to become a member.

**11). Next Meeting:**Members decided to hold a joint meeting with the Planning Board at their Nov. 3 meeting. Chairman Titus suggested the committee request to be placed on the first part of the Planning Board agenda and then leave the meeting to hold an EDC meeting after the presentation and question and answer period.

**12). Adjournment:
Motion:** (Aylard, second Laferte) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 6:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary