

Town of Farmington
Economic Development Committee
Tuesday, September 13, 2016

Committee Members Present:

Resta Detwiler, Chairman
Denise Roy-Palmer, Vice Chairman
Ann Titus, Selectmen's Rep.
Martin Laferte, Planning Board Rep.
Randy Orvis
Diane Blair

Committee Members Absent:

Elaine Aylard

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Detwiler called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Comment: None.

4). Review of Minutes:

Motion: (Laferte, second Titus) to table review of the minutes until next month passed 6-0.

5). Old Business:

A). Newsletter- Members reviewed the September newsletter. Discussion included the Sarah Greenfield Business Park is also in the Economic Revitalization Zone, send letters to business owners in the ERZ and continue the color coding in each edition. Mr. Laferte said the newsletter is getting better with each edition and thanked Chairman Detwiler for her efforts.

Motion: (Titus, second Roy-Palmer) to accept the Sept. newsletter as presented passed 6-0.

B). Planning Board Information- Mr. Laferte reviewed the joint meeting held Sept. 6 with EDC and Planning Board members. He said several issues of importance including the TIF District, bringing natural gas to town and the review of the build-out analysis for each zone were discussed. He also gave a brief description of the cases before the board that night.

C). Meeting with the Gas Company- Mr. Orvis told the committee he noticed something seems to be slowing the installation of the gas lines in the Route 16 area. He said it appears that the NH DOT does not want the lines installed within the state right-of-way but that the gas company sees the right-of-way as the best location for the lines as it will allow customers to easily connect to the lines and avoid the need to have to drill deeper into the ground to install the lines. He speculated that they may be waiting for the results

of the election to see if there may be a change in attitudes in Concord. He added that installing gas lines in the state right-of-way along Route 11 may “mess up” future plans to widen the road to four lanes. The gas company representative will contact him again in six months Orvis said.

Mr. Laferte said some people do not realize that the entrance to the Tractor Supply store in Rochester is on Two Rod Road which could be extended to Ten Rod Road and open that land up to commercial development. This may change the gas company’s thoughts about bringing natural gas up Route 11 he said.

C). Decals and BOS Report- Mrs. Titus suggested keeping the type, color and wording the same as on the current decals found on local business windows and send an order for 20 decals to a sign company. Discussion included getting more decals at a cheaper price and whether to make them more than one color. Mrs. Titus said she will take a picture of the current decals and return to committee with ordering information. She said she did not have anything to report from the Board of Selectmen. She suggested members bring any questions to Selectmen during a board meeting.

D). Town Administrator- Mr. Laferte asked if the Town Administrator agreed to come to EDC meetings every three months. Chairman Detwiler said that he did agree to come when he is available. She added that she asked him to come to tonight’s meeting but that he was unavailable due to the State Primary elections.

6). New Business:

A). Joint Meeting with the Planning Board- Sept. 6, 2016- discussed earlier in the meeting.

B). Meeting with DRED on Oct.11, 2016- Chairman Detwiler suggested sending postcards to business owners inviting them to the meeting with Mark LaLiberte and Bridgett Beckwith from the NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development. She said there 36 businesses listed as part of the village district and members suggested adding Union Telephone/TDS and TD Bank to the list. She then read a draft letter she proposed be sent to the business owners.

Motion: (Laferte, second Roy-Palmer) to approve notifying the business owners of the Oct. 11th meeting passed 6-0.

Ms. Roy-Palmer suggested inviting all of the Town committee members to the meeting. Chairman Detwiler asked the members’ thoughts about printing flyers to advertise the meeting.

Mrs. Titus suggested making more copies of the Sept. newsletter for use as a flyer. She suggested contacting the Selectmen’s Secretary to see how many copies can be printed and then seek permission from business owners to post them at their businesses.

Members also discussed other ways to publicize the meeting. Suggestions included the Puddledock Press, the Rochester Times, cable TV PEG Channel 26, the Strafford Regional Planning Commission and the Foster’s Daily Democrat.

7). Any Other Business:

A). Resignation- Chairman Detwiler announced that member Elaine Aylard has resigned from the committee effective Sept. 13, 2016.

Motion: (Titus, second Laferte) to accept the resignation of Elaine Aylard passed 6-0.

B). Town Signs Donation- Chairman Detwiler said the committee's \$200 donation to the new "Welcome to Farmington" signs will be sent directly to the sign company.

C). Notebook- Ms. Detwiler told the committee she purchased a notebook and folders for EDC business. She will forward the \$9.30 invoice to the Town Administrator.

D). Moose Mountains Regional Alliance- Chairman Detwiler gave members copies of the MMRA brochure outlining the group's goals and activities. Ms. Roy-Palmer added the group has hired a web designer and will have a new web site promoting the seven towns in the area up and running very soon.

E). Farmington House of Pizza- Mrs. Titus suggested the MMRA hold a meeting at the pizza shop.

Ms. Roy-Palmer said the group may consider meeting there after the web site is completed.

Chairman Detwiler noted the pizza place has recently moved to a new location and the grand opening is scheduled for October. She then asked about holding ribbon cutting ceremonies for existing businesses that move.

Ms. Roy-Palmer suggested they could consider it if the re-opening is due an expansion or a move to a new location. It is up to the business involved she said.

Chairman Detwiler asked if the House of Pizza would qualify for the ERZ program "after the fact".

Ms. Roy-Palmer said it would depend if it meets the program requirements and suggested the owner fill out the application found on the Town web site.

F). Chairman's Announcement- Chairman Detwiler announced she is putting her home up for sale next week and is planning on moving to Littleton, NH.

G). ATV Trails- Mr. Orvis said the state legislature is considering new legislation regarding the use of ATV trails. He said many people think offering "decent trail riding" could help the economy and that the town is losing money to people riding trails in the northern part of the state. He plans to speak with members of the New Durham Trails Club about steps the town could take to improve the trail system in Farmington.

H). Trail Reveal- Ms. Detwiler invited members and viewers to attend the reveal of the first marked hiking trail in town. She said the reveal will be held on Sept. 18, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the French property on Hornetown Road.

I). Longer Meeting- Chairman Detwiler said the strategy session and the DRED presentation may cause the Oct. meeting to last more than the one hour time allotted for committee meetings. Consensus of the committee was to extend the meeting and take a break if needed.

J). Sarah Greenfield Business Park- Chairman Detwiler said one parcel in the park has

a monitoring well which will have to be disclosed to any potential buyers.

Mr. Orvis suggested it may be close to the end of the 30 year agreement regarding environmental monitoring needed due to its proximity to the former Collins-Aikman Superfund site.

Ms. Detwiler read from the Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions for the property which was originated in 1990 and amended/renewed in 1997 and 2000. She said that the parcel can't be developed while the agreement is in effect and that it ends on June 30, 2020.

She also noted covenants exist for a second industrial park on town-owned land located off Route 75 which has never been developed.

K). In-kind Donations- Ms. Detwiler told members she received information from the Strafford Regional Planning Commission about the use of in-kind donation credits for time spent working on a project to pay toward some grants. She said she passed the information on to the Town Administrator.

9). Next Meeting: Oct. 11, 2016 at 6 p.m.

10). Adjournment:

Motion: (Laferte, second Titus) to adjourn the meeting passed 6-0 at 6:50 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Resta Detwiler, Chairman