

## MINUTES

**HOOKSETT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
HOOKSETT TOWN HALL  
HOOKSETT, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Wednesday, March 11, 2009**

**Call To Order:** Chairman W. Sirak called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

**Present:** Chairman William Sirak, Craig Ahlquist, Tom Barrett, Alden Beauchemin, Steve Korzynowski, Paul Loiselle, Allison Smith, Carol Granfield (Town Administrator) and Jo Ann Duffy (Town Planner).

**Also Present:** Jack Munn, SNHPC

**Excused:** Fred Bishop, Robert Corallino, Allison Smith

### **Approval of Minutes**

***P. Loiselle moved to approve the February 11, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion seconded by C. Ahlquist. Motion carried unanimously.***

### **Committee Membership**

Chairman W. Sirak brought up the subject of expanding the group and the need to have someone with a real estate background. He spoke with Paul LeBlanc, President of SNHU to possibly get two people officially appointed from their business school. He received an e-mail from an individual with a Marketing/Public Relations background who works for a real estate company. The Committee could possibly add three more members, one member with industrial/commercial real estate background, a second member from SNHU and a third member with public relations background and/or existing Hooksett business owner. This will be brought to the Council for approval.

***P. Loiselle moved to make a recommendation to the Town Council to expand membership of the committee from 9 members to 12 members. Motion seconded by T. Barrett. Motion carried unanimously.***

P. Loiselle and T. Barrett will head the appointing sub-committee.

### **Town Entrance/Gateway**

A. Beauchemin updated the board on the Town gateway project. A map was presented noted with potential gateway areas. Necessary permits will be coordinated through the State. It was suggested forming a sub-committee and getting other town groups involved to do clean ups and install plants boxes and regular maintenance. A. Beauchemin has approached a number of groups and businesses in Town. He also suggested informing the public through the local newspapers. Highway and Parks & Recreation Departments could provide some assistance. The board discussed possible options.

**The motion to proceed with the gateway beautification project carried unanimously.**

### **“Old Town Hall” Study Committee Update**

At the last meeting, it was determined that the Town will have to go to Probate Court to settle the deed issue. A recommendation will be presented to the Council at their meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

T. Barrett spoke to the head of the Millyard (Amoskeag) “business incubator” in Manchester with regards to the possibilities of the Old Town Hall being used as an expansion of the “business

incubator". There are stimulus federal funds available for this purpose. There will be some legal work involved.

C. Granfield recently suggested to the Council to form a committee to look into town-owned building use/maintenance. Some areas in various town-owned buildings are not being utilized. The Council discussed having a thorough evaluation to determine the best use of these areas including the unfinished parts of the new Town Hall and the old Town Hall.

#### **Sewer Warrant Article**

One of the Town Warrants being presented to the voters this year is for a \$6.2 million bond for the improvement and expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. 50% will be repaid by the State of New Hampshire through federal stimulus package and the balance to be paid by sewer fees and ratepayers.

P. Loiselle suggested having a sign on voting day from the Economic Development Committee supporting the warrant article.

A. Beauchemin stated Walmart is planning on building a private treatment facility for their store at Route 3A. He spoke to their engineers about the possibility of hooking into the town's sewer system. The sewer line would extend through Route 3A if the warrant article passes. C. Ahlquist is also working on a public/private partnership to extend sewer onto Exit 10. He is working with Sewer Commissioner, Sid Baines to determine if there is sufficient line to accommodate existing households and businesses.

After much discussion, the board decided to wait for the release of list of projects included in the stimulus package. If Hooksett Sewer improvement does not make the list, the warrant article becomes null and void. This will be an agenda item for the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Sewer Commission will be invited to attend the meeting.

#### **SNHPC Study Updates**

J. Munn, SNHPC updated the board on economic revitalization tax credit program. This is a State tax credit program. Zones and location sites have to be identified and deemed to be eligible by NHDES. A consultant is working with SNHPC to assess possible sites similar to the Brownsfields program already in place. These sites were plotted on a map. J. Munn met with C. Granfield, B. Sirak and J. Duffy to set the groundwork in place. SNHPC will do the fieldwork as a part of their contract with the Town. The sites included older industrial areas, commercial, vacant lots, abandoned and underutilized buildings. Some of these areas could be certified as a part of the economic revitalization program. There's a criteria and an application process that needs to be submitted by the Town of Hooksett to DRED. A similar program introduced by the Heritage Committee has been adopted in the Village area. This program is an incentive for businesses to move into Hooksett.

#### **Meet Jeanne Shaheen**

Chairman W. Sirak informed everyone of an event to meet the new Jeanne Shaheen team on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 10 am.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Town Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn  
Administrative Assistant

