

MINUTES

**HOOKSETT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HOOKSETT TOWN HALL
HOOKSETT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Wednesday, April 8, 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, Paul Loiselle, Allison Smith, Carol Granfield (Town Administrator) and Jo Ann Duffy (Town Planner).

Also Present: Keith Moon (SNHU), Jack Munn (SNHPC), Sid Baines (Hooksett Sewer Commission), Bruce Kudrick (Hooksett Sewer Department), Dave Gilmore (Walmart), Steve Decoursey (Walmart)

Excused: Fred Bishop, Robert Corallino, Steve Korzynowski

Approval of Minutes

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

Sewer Expansion

Sid Baines: The Wastewater Commission opened its doors in 1970. At that time, the Federal government funded about 85% of the cost of the plant. The citizens of Hooksett came up with \$48,000. The plant is just under 40 years old. Normally, the plant gets renovated every 25 years. We never had enough funds to do that. We were able to raise \$3 million for phase 1 of construction and the first half of phase 2. We need about \$6.2 million to complete the second phase of construction. We've applied for stimulus money and ended up on the list. We were 35th but only 30 were funded. We felt that the State made some errors in their calculations and submitted a testimony to that effect. Sen. Gatsas and Rep. Hess also submitted testimonies. The State will take testimony until the 10th of the month. At that point, they will put out the final list. We are hoping to move up on the list and be funded. If it gets funded, Phase 2 will be finished and will double the capacity from 1.1 million gallons to 2.2 million gallons a day. This should be a 15-year fix.

S. Baines further explained that the Sewer Commission is a quasi-private property. The officers are elected and the commission is funded through what are charged to ratepayers. The infrastructure work grew to about \$9 million.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Sewer Department suggested a possibility of Walmart getting sewer capacity. If the stimulus package does not come through, and the warrant article does not pass, the plant will get another 200,000 gallons with recent renovation. These additional gallons will take care of Exit 10 development easily and part of Hackett Hill, if there are any interests.

Dave Gilmore, Walmart Representative and Regional Design Manager, introduced himself and Steve Decoursey, Bohler Engineering.

S. Decoursey, Bohler Engineering: The initial due diligence we did showed that there was no existing town sewer on Route 3A. We did contact the City of Manchester to see if we could tie into their system. They indicated that was not possible. We designed and permitted a conventional septic system for Walmart, which is the same thing Lowe's ended up doing. DES

approved the permit and scheduled construction to begin in the spring. We were contacted by Mr. Beauchemin of this committee to look into and discuss the possibility of an extension to the treatment plant.

Chair Sirak commended A. Beauchemin for taking the initiative in the matter.

Walmart would need help in establishing the cost for extension as well as local permitting.

Warrant article 3

Sid Baines asked for the committee's support for warrant article 3.

P. Losielle moved to support warrant article 3. Motion seconded by J. Duffy. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Entrance Options Progress Report

A. Alden Beauchemin indicated that he is in the process of making plans for the six entrances to the Town of Hooksett. He shared that he is working with town service clubs and Dale Hemeon, Director of Highways to coordinate this effort. Chair Sirak again thanked Alden for his great volunteer efforts and described Alden as "Hooksett's one man stimulus program".

Town Council Response to Economic Development Recommendations

Chair Sirak shared his report and responses from the recent Town Council Meeting. He shared that the Town Council was very supportive of the proposed Ambassadors Program and authorized the Economic Development Committee to proceed with these efforts.

Town Council exhibited strong support with a six to three vote to retain the "Old Town Hall" as a community center and to preserve its historic importance to the Town. They did not approve exploring alternate uses for the building through the probate court process.

An update regarding progress with the development of an economic development plan and coordinating this plan with the current master plan was received with mixed opinions. Nancy Van Scoy challenged the number of participants who attended the three focus groups and expressed concern about the lack of progress with the development of the Town's Web-Site.

The Town Council approved expansion of the Hooksett Economic Development Committee by three members including a representative from Southern New Hampshire University.

Ambassadors Program up Date Fred Bishop, Chair

Fred Bishop was unable to attend. Chair Sirak shared the strong support for his efforts with the Town Council and encouraged him to proceed with his efforts. This program has been approved by the Town Council.

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Study updates

Economic Development Sites - Jack Munn presented a Proposal and Scope of Work for the Regional Economic Development Plan for the Metro Center – NH. The Committee concurred with this endeavor; however, they decided to wait until after the May 2009 Town Meeting before they commit any funding.

Coordination with Master Plan – The draft of the Hooksett Atlas information was distributed for review. This information will be included in the Economic Plan for Hooksett upon its completion.

ER-Z Designation – The Committee was in favor of pursuing Economic Revitalization Zones. Further review will be completed, and a workshop meeting will be arranged with the Planning Board, Town Council and EDC. J. Munn will contact DRED for further assistance.

Expansion of Committee Members Update Paul Loiselle, Tom Barrett

Chair Sirak introduced a representative of Southern New Hampshire University to serve on the Hooksett Economic Development Committee, Dr. Keith Moon. Paul Loisell and Tom Barren also nominated Michael Reed of Stebbins Realty. Both members were nominated and approved by unanimous vote.

Business Incubator Program

Keith Moon and Tom Barrett shared their experience with a business incubator program located in the Mill Yards on Canal Street in Manchester. The need for additional space for this program was suggested. The possibility of developing such a program in Hooksett was reviewed. Keith and Tom were requested to further explore this opportunity and report back to the committee.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant