

## MINUTES

**HOOKSETT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
HOOKSETT TOWN HALL  
HOOKSETT, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Wednesday, June 10, 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, Fred Bishop, Steve Korzyniowski, Paul Loiselle, Keith Moon, Carol Granfield, Town Administrator

**Also Present:** Jack Munn, SNHPC; Mike Skelton, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce

**Excused:** Jo Ann Duffy, Town Planner; Allison Smith

### **Approval of Minutes**

***P. Loiselle moved to approve the May 6, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion seconded by F. Bishop. Motion carried unanimously.***

### **SNHPC Study Updates**

Chairman W. Sirak: As you recall, we had a workshop with members of the Council, Planning Board and Zoning Board. Recommendations and comments were well received. Members were please with the progress of the website. The Economic Development section is clearly identified. Jack Munn of SNHPC will do a presentation of study updates.

J. Munn, SNHPC presented the studies on the Building Blocks for Economic Development and Atlas of Commercial Industrial and Mixed-Use Zoned Land in Hooksett (on file). These will be made available on the Town's website.

***P. Loiselle moved to accept the reports and charge the Town Planner with the responsibility of maintaining and updating the master plan. Motion seconded by F. Bishop. Motion carried unanimously.***

SNHPC has recommended that the Town Council use the federal funds in the amount of \$7,000 on a collaborative basis with 13 other communities as a part of Metro. The Town Council and the Town Administrator has accepted the recommendation.

T. Barrett: I think this committee has to decide whether to get involved with Hooksett or regionally. There has to be a priority. I am more interested with working with the local Town of Hooksett rather than the whole region. Most of the projects are long term and there's very little in the pipeline.

Chairman W. Sirak: Our focus has to be on Hooksett and cannot be on the region but we have to be a player as part of the region or we'll lose out on the federal designations and regional opportunities. I don't think we can afford to do that.

### **Ambassador's Program**

F. Bishop updated the committee on the Ambassador's Program. Preliminary information was gathered. Shaw's main concern had to do with Walmart moving out of the plaza. They are concerned smaller businesses may move out of the plaza. Cocci Computers wanted to know why Hooksett did not have a Chamber of Commerce. They offered to host an after business hours at their facility for businesses to get to know other businesses in the area. Northeast Record Retention offered free recycling to the Town. Businesses were asked about their

dealings with the Town. Police and Fire Departments received high grades from the three businesses visited. Cocci Computer had one concern with Assessing. The former building inspection process got a negative feedback.

There was a discussion on how to store data gathered. C. Granfield stated this will be an excellent project for an intern. Chairman W. Sirak suggested keeping track on a regular basis and sharing the information with different departments and committees. He also suggested inviting the High School Committee to make a presentation to the group this fall.

### **Chambers of Commerce**

Discussion on forming a local Chamber of Commerce for businesses in the area including the big boxes, i.e., Shaw's, Walmart, Kohl's, Lowe's, etc.

Chairman W. Sirak introduced Mr. Mike Skelton of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce (GMCC), who offered to coordinate and help the Town set up its own Chamber of Commerce. Hooksett businesses are also eligible to join the GMCC.

M. Skelton: My primary function at the Chamber is government affairs, lobby and economic development. There's so much I could talk about. I put together some information that summarizes our core services. We've done it on a smaller scale with our members and focus groups and the feedback that you get from that is valuable to an organization. People are looking for networking opportunities. I am here to answer some question and provide options on how we can assist.

Mr. Skelton talked about what the Chambers of Commerce provide for its members. He suggested creating a community-focused sub-committee made up of business members in the community. City of Manchester has a Down Town Committee, which is made up of businesses in the down town area. Their sole mission is to observe the economic of down town Manchester. They focus on issues like parking, building codes, promoting cultural arts, education and other community focused issues. He stated local business owners have to decide whether they would like to create a local Chamber of Commerce. He added the GMCC offers an ala-carte menu of services where businesses could purchase packages of their choice. The basic membership fee is \$325 and they are creating a tier package for members to be available in September.

T. Barrett volunteered to work with the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and inform the businesses in the area.

F. Bishop suggested visiting the rest of businesses on the list and bringing up the subject for discussion to gather some feedback from business owners and assess the interest then try to organize something.

The consensus was to continue with the schedule to meet with businesses and to get some feedback on whether there is a need for Hooksett businesses to have its own Chamber of Commerce or join the GMCC. F. Bishop and T. Barrett will report on findings and recommendations at the next meeting in September.

The board will look into possibilities of moving the meeting at SNHU at 7:30 am.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn  
Administrative Assistant