

MINUTES

**HOOKSETT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HOOKSETT TOWN HALL
HOOKSETT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Wednesday, October 14, 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, Jo Ann Duffy (Town Planner), Steve Korzyniowski, Paul Loiselle, Keith Moon, Carol Granfield (Town Administrator)

Excused: Michel Reed

Approval of September 9, 2009 Minutes

Minutes are approved as presented.

Incubator Study

Keith Moon made a power point presentation on the incubator study. (Attached.)

Business incubators nurture the development of entrepreneurial companies, helping them to survive and grow during the vulnerable start-up period. Incubation goals include creating local jobs, enhancing a community's business climate, retaining businesses in a region, commercializing technologies, accelerating growth in a particular industry and diversifying local economies. Incubators offer their clients business support services and resources that are tailored to their needs.

Committee Membership Recommendation

Bill Sirak shared the resignation of Allison Smith who is moving from the Town of Hooksett. He also thanked her for her service to the Hooksett Economic Development Committee and the community. P. Loiselle recommended Jack Dowd as a committee member.

C. Granfield stated Mr. Dowd currently owns the USA Subs in town. He served as Town Councilor/Mayor of Derry, Executive Director of Derry Economic Development, etc. He also served on the Metro Board.

P. Loiselle moved to recommend Jack Dowd as member of the Economic Development Committee. Motion seconded by C. Ahlquist. Motion carried unanimously.

Ambassadors' Program

F. Bishop asked committee members to help contact businesses in the area. Members volunteered to contact various businesses. He suggested sending the letter of introduction at least a week prior to meeting. Chairman Sirak suggested contacting

Union Leader to do a story on Hooksett's Ambassadors' Program. He stated developers should meet with the Planning Board and Zoning Board before they purchase a property to get acquainted with established procedures to make the application process run smoothly.

J. Duffy asked to include the identified business areas in the Economic Development Chapter of the Master Plan. Chairman Sirak also suggested making a presentation of what the EDC has accomplished during the year to the Budget Committee. C. Granfield will coordinate a date and time with the Budget Committee.

Website

C. Granfield stated this item is currently in limbo. Still working with TEC. The site is up and running but still needs to be changed. Looking at the financial end and the possibilities of contracting with someone else.

Chamber of Commerce

T. Barrett stated Cocci Computers will sponsor after hours greeting session.

Town Facility Study

The committee is currently working on the final report to be presented to the Council.

Exit 10/Exit 7

The City of Manchester, as well as the towns of Bow, Hooksett and Dunbarton made a presentation to DOT to try and put a recreated Exit 7 back on the 10-year plan. DOT is not receptive to the idea and indicated they would only take care of maintenance. Chairman Sirak stated this is unacceptable. The plan should address safety and what is in the best interest of the communities. Metro would like to take a look at it. It's a priority in this area and will keep trying to get it back on the plan. The area is primarily owned by Manchester but traffic impact affects Hooksett.

Exit 11

As a part of Ambassadors' Program, C. Granfield and Chairman Sirak met with Mr. Pallazzi, property owner at Exit 11. A wide-ranging discussion took place around the best use of this "entrance site" to Hooksett. Carol and Bill offered the town's assistance in marketing this property for the most appropriate use.

Exit 10

Walmart is pursuing tying into Exit 10 sewer system. Developers and Walmart are in discussion regarding this matter. Feldco is currently working on a project at Exit 10. They are not prepared to make an announcement at this point in time. Exit 10 will be significantly expanded in the near future depending on financing situation.

Economic Summit Annual Event

Chairman Sirak suggested pushing the event back in anticipation of the announcement on Exit 10.

Union Leader

Council Chair Bill Gahara, Chair Sirak and C. Granfield met with Joe McQuaid and John Toole of the Union Leader. Following that meeting, a series of positive articles about Hooksett came out. T. Barrett stated he noticed articles on the Hooksett Banner are basically a repeat of articles published in the Union Leader. He added he would love to see original local articles on the Hooksett Banner.

Community Response

Paul Loren, representing current owners of Peterbrook Motel stated the property has been owned by a series of reckless property owners prior to Mr. Loren's clients. He has met with Planning Board to try to understand the status of the property. The current owners would like to re-develop the property as it was and clean it up. Building Department rejected their proposal to repair the building.

Chairman Sirak explained that the Town is concerned the current owners would develop the property into another sub-standard housing. The property is not zoned for residential. Chairman Sirak suggested coming up with a specific plan of what the property would look like. He encouraged the owners to work closely with the Town Administrator and the Town Planner in coming up with a plan to eliminate the concept that this would continue to be housing problem.

Richard Sullivan, 7 Morgan Drive, stated he's been working with a group of business owners to try and develop a Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Sirak advised him to contact Mike Skelton, Vice President of Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. They are assisting Hooksett in setting up its own Chambers of Commerce.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant