

MINUTES

**HOOKSETT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HOOKSETT TOWN HALL
HOOKSETT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Wednesday, April 14, 2010**

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

Present: Craig Ahlquist, Tom Barrett, Alden Beauchemin, Fred Bishop, Jack Dowd, Steve Korzyniowski, Keith Moon, Mike Reed, Chairman William Sirak, Jo Ann Duffy (Town Planner), Paul Loiselle (Council Representative) and Carol Granfield (Town Administrator)

Also Present: Gemma Waite (Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations), Robin Comstock (GMCC President and CEO), Shawnda Misina (GCOMM Membership Director)

Approval of Minutes

P. Loiselle moved to approve the February 10, 2010 minutes. Motion seconded by C. Granfield. Motion carried unanimously.

Hooksett Chamber of Commerce Update

T. Barrett stated the "Meet and Greet" event hosted by Cocci Computers was a huge success and very well attended.

Gemma Waite introduced herself as well as her colleagues, Robin Comstock and Shawnda Misina.

The "Meet and Greet" event was held on March 2nd at Cocci Computer Services. A total of 54 Hooksett Businesses attended the event. Out of 54, 16 are currently members of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Waite thanked Cocci Computers for their support of the Chamber of Commerce as well as hosting the event. A follow-up letter was sent to all businesses that attended thanking them for attending the event and also to invite them to attend a follow-up event to be held at SNHU on March 25th. A discount chamber membership was also offered. 22 businesses attended the event at SNHU. So far 2 Hooksett businesses have joined the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. The chamber is looking into holding additional events in Hooksett. One, possibly at Merchant's Auto. Ms. Waite also addressed some misconceptions about the chamber of commerce. The Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce serves Manchester and the surrounding (9) towns. Currently, the chamber has almost 1,000 members, 20 of those are Hooksett-based businesses. 63% of members are Manchester-based businesses, 37% come from outside the Manchester area. 52% of businesses have 10 or fewer employees. Only 20% of membership have 100 or more employees. The chamber helps local businesses to connect with other businesses in the region through

networking. They are looking to create a Hooksett Advisory Committee. Ms. Waite asked for the board's support on the creation of Hooksett Advisory Committee.

P. Loisel moved to acknowledge and support the creation of Hooksett Advisory Committee. Motion seconded by A. Beauchemin.

F. Bishop stated the Ambassadors' program provided an opportunity for local businesses to be able to network with each other. He added he does not think forming an Advisory Committee will accomplish the same.

T. Barrett agreed with F. Bishop. If the Advisory Committee does go in effect, he'd like to see Hooksett specific business after hours events like the one hosted by Cocci Computers.

Ms. Waite explained the chambers would be open to ideas of Hooksett specific events.

Motion carried.

T. Barrett congratulated Chairman Sirak for receiving Kiwanis' Hooksett Business Leader of the Year award.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant