

MINUTES

**HOOKSETT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HOOKSETT TOWN HALL
HOOKSETT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Wednesday, June 23, 2010**

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

Present: Craig Ahlquist, Tom Barrett, Paul Loiselle, Steve Korzyniowski, Mike Reed, Chairman William Sirak and Carol Granfield (Town Administrator)

Excused: Jack Dowd, Jo Ann Duffy, Keith Moon, Fred Bishop, and Alden Beauchemin

Also Present: Barbara Stadtmiller, Summer Intern, UNH

Approval of Minutes

*P. Loiselle moved to approve the May 12, 2010 minutes. Motion seconded by T. Barrett. **Motion carried unanimously.***

Ambassador's Program

F. Bishop was unable to attend the meeting. He submitted a written update to the board. Efforts by several members continue to be very limited in completing Ambassador Visits. During the past month, members have visited Lang Door, Gosselin Insurance and Customer Perspectives. It was reported that a total of 31 visits were made by department heads and Hooksett Economic Development Committee members this past year.

Chairman Sirak emphasized the importance of the ambassador's program, sharing that this function has been most productive and insightful. Following considerable discussion, a goal of 5-7 meetings a month was established as a realistic goal.

Chambers of Commerce Development

Hooksett is in the process of exploring the development of a Chambers of Commerce with the cooperation of the Greater Manchester Chambers of Commerce (GMCC). A very well received round table was held in March. GMCC picked up 12 new members. They will meet with the new members in the summer to obtain input on what they would like to see done by the "Hooksett Chambers of Commerce". GMCC will schedule monthly meetings to be held at other greater Manchester communities, starting with Hooksett.

Exit 11

Due diligence work is being done. Meetings are scheduled with DOT, Liquor State Commission, Governor's Office and Hooksett Advisors (Developers). Chairman Sirak and C. Granfield have met with Robert Mulcahy (Hooksett Advisors Spokesperson). Still

working with a major retailer, who would like to remain anonymous at this time. An update report will be presented to the Town Council this fall.

C. Granfield added that one of the budget items being encumbered at tonight's Town Council meeting is a short-term service agreement with Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI) to assist the Town on an as needed, hourly basis.

M. Reed stated it is important to play off Exit 10's success. The \$2 million TIF note on Exit 10 is now paid and generating significant annual tax revenue for the Town. .

C. Granfield moved to support moving forth with a short-term contract with MRI for Economic Development on an as needed basis. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Intern

C. Granfield introduced Barbara Stadtmiller to the board. The Town applied for a fellowship program through NHMA for candidates in the Master's Program. She started two weeks ago, working 20 hours per week for 5 months.

Beautify Hooksett Program

C. Granfield updated the board on the Town's Beautify Hooksett program. She presented the signs that will be displayed on the areas.

Other Development

- Market Basket is moving ahead. It will be located at Central Park 1.
- The old Walmart site was split into 3 sections. Ocean State's Job Lot is occupying one section. Tractor Supplies will be moving into another section.
- Vino's Restaurant will be moving into the old Burger King site. They are going through building permitting process.

HEDC Strategic Plan

Chairman Sirak presented the proposed amendments to the board's Mission Statement and Primary Goals and Objectives. This will be a part of the board's report for the Annual Town Report. This was also presented to the Planning Board. (See attached)

Old Town Hall

The Council asked the Facility Advisory Committee to review the building. The Town Hall Preservation Committee gathered some suggestions from the public. A press release was also published to solicit some suggestions for possible use for the building. Preliminary analysis showed the building would need around \$600,000 worth of work to bring it up to code. Hopefully within a few weeks the Facility Advisory Committee will have enough information to formulate a recommendation.

M. Reed stated he is not optimistic the Town would be able to find funding for revitalizing the building. The nature of the building, the location, limitation of parking, restrictions on the property and the way the building was constructed put a lot of limitation to the use of the building.

There was a discussion on options and probate court procedure to amend the deed. Three general recommendations were suggested regarding the future use of the old town hall: (1) Attempt to maintain at least the exterior historical features of the building. (2) Continue to provide community use or access at some level and (3) develop a plan for the facility that would require limited tax support.

*P. Loiselle moved to encourage further exploration of saving the Town Hall with the concept of revenue neutral and sustainable with very limited tax dollars. Motion seconded by C. Granfield. **Motion carried unanimously.***

Site-Ready Projects

Chairman Sirak stated there is a meeting with Metro NH with regards to developing a “Site-Ready Project”, where a property could be certified as “site-ready”. Developers can go to the Planning Board already pre-certified and get the project started in months. Details are being worked on. Due to the Town’s limited resources, the board has to work with Metro, SNHPC and DRED.

Council Representative Paul Loiselle

The board thanked Councilor Paul Loiselle for all his work and assistance to the HEDC. Carol shared that she will speak with members of the Town Council regarding appointment of a Town Council member to serve on the Economic Development Committee in place of Paul Loiselle.

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8th and every second Wednesday of the month thereafter, unless otherwise indicated.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant