

MINUTES

**HOOKSETT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HOOKSETT TOWN HALL
HOOKSETT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Wednesday, September 8, 2010**

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

Present: Craig Ahlquist, Tom Barrett, Alden Beauchemin, Bill Gahara , Steve Korzyniowski, Mike Reed and Chairman William Sirak

Staff: Carol Granfield (Town Administrator) and Jo Ann Duffy (Town Planner)

Excused: Fred Bishop

Also Present: Barbara Stadtmiller (UNH Intern), Jack Munn (SNHPC), Mike Skelton (Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce), Richard Sullivan (Hooksett Chambers of Commerce) and Eric Irwin

Approval of Minutes

The June 23, 2010 minutes was approved as amended.

Ambassador's Program

Chair Sirak stated the Ambassador's Program is one of HEDC's most successful programs. He encouraged everyone to continue visiting local businesses on their lists. Fred Bishop provided members with a revised copy of recent interviews and assignments.

Chair Sirak introduced the new Town Council Representative, Bill Gahara to the board.

Exit 6/7 Update

J. Duffy gave an update on Exit 6/7. There was a meeting between Hooksett Manchester and Goffstown. CLD prepared a conceptual and will be bidding on the project. The DOT 10-year plan includes \$2 million for engineering only, not design and construction. The overall project is estimated at \$50 million, which is not yet included in the 10-year plan. SNHPC applied for a TIGER grant that will provide an additional \$1 million. DOT will not advance the project until the design is complete. Realistic timeframe for completion of this project is 2018.

J. Munn added that the TIGER grant is a national program that will provide opportunity for funding.

Chambers of Commerce

M. Skelton clarified that the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) is not proposing to create a new chambers of commerce for Hooksett. They are an existing

regional chamber of commerce that represents approximately 14 communities in the greater Manchester region that has been around for almost 100 years with approximately 1,000 members, 60% from Manchester and 40% from outside Manchester and other region. They helped organized a well-attended event last spring at Cocci Computers for local business owners.

M. Skelton has started working on forming the Hooksett Advisory Committee. This group would be a liaison between the Town and GMCC. There are a lot of future events scheduled. Member dues are based on the size of the business and services they are interested in.

R. Sullivan stated he started working on establishing a Hooksett Chambers of Commerce over a year ago. It was established with 12 steering committee members, 4 new members this week. He is not opposed to cooperating with Manchester, Concord or other chambers. They are on a drive to pick up 50 charter members. There has been no negative feedback from any businesses. They will keep the board informed. He added that by forming the Hooksett Chambers of Commerce, he is not separating Hooksett from any other chambers.

C. Granfield informed everyone that there's another smaller entity, not a chamber but a business network that meets twice a month at the Library. Contact information for all three groups is available and provided to anyone who contacts the Town Hall for information.

J. Duffy moved for HEDC to support and acknowledge all business initiatives/chambers of commerce. Motion seconded by C. Granfield.

Eric Irwin, Cindy Drive added there are 15 people in the network who meet twice a month. They are mostly smaller businesses, with 3-5 employees. They feel a smaller group of people is more personal and will have more interaction.

R. Sullivan stated acknowledging all three will set up a competition between the Town's local Chamber of Commerce and GMCC.

Chair Sirak shared that he appreciated the volunteer efforts of Mr. Sullivan and his group to form a separate Chamber of Commerce and encouraged him to work cooperatively with the efforts of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. He stated that it was not appropriate for HDC to endorse a particular organization and felt that the business community will join the organization that best meets their needs.

Motion carried unanimously.

Town Administrator's Report

C. Granfield informed the group of the following:

1. PSNH is looking to expand their operations and build a facility behind the Safety Center.

2. Hooksett Gateway at Exit 11 – various elements is being worked on.
3. Beautify Hooksett – There are various areas in Town sponsored by different groups. A gateway entrance is in the works in conjunction with the Kiwanis group. This will be presented to the Town Council for approval.
4. Old Town Hall – The Town learned through the Attorney General’s office that restrictions on the old Town Hall could be shifted to the current Town Hall because of the money spent and transfer of service. They are still checking if there are any heirs left. They are looking into possibly leasing a portion and preserving another portion. B. Stadtmiller will be working with the Town Hall Preservation Committee to generate a survey.
5. Emergency Management brochures are available for any business in Town.
6. Market Basket site work is going well.
7. The shopping plaza at Hooksett Road is taking off since Ocean State Job Lots opened.
8. Veano’s Restaurant will be moving into the old Burger King site.
9. The Tractor Supply and Auto Zone will be moving in.
10. Some new developments on Exit 10 but nothing concrete to report.

Century Sporting Clays Club

The club is a private recreational club with several hundred members. Chair Sirak is a member and they have invited members of the Council and HEDC to try skeet or clay shooting. One does not have to be a club member to use the facility.

Board Resignations

Keith Moon and Jack Dowd submitted their resignations due to meeting conflicts. Bill Gahara and Mike Reed offered their assistance to identify and speak with community leaders who may be interested in serving the HEDC

List of Available Commercial Properties

M. Reed presented a list of available commercial properties in Hooksett. The list is also available on the Town’s Economic Development website.

J. Mudge added any areas for a potential brownsfield should be noted. C. Granfield stated areas to be considered for the revitalization tax relief program should also be added.

Adoption of 2010-2011 Meeting Schedule _____ ;

Regular board meetings will be held every 2nd Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant