

## MINUTES

### **HOOKSETT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HOOKSETT TOWN HALL HOOKSETT, NEW HAMPSHIRE Wednesday, December 14, 2011**

**Call to Order:** Chair Ahlquist called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

**Present:** Tom Barrett, William Gillett, John Gryval (Planning Board Chair), Jesse Marchand, Matt Mercier, Nick Mercier, Michael Reed, Mark Sanborn, David Scarpetti, and Chair Craig Ahlquist

**Staff:** Elizabeth Dionne (Human Resource Coordinator), Jo Ann Duffy (Town Planner), Leo Lessard (Public Works Director), Dean E. Shankle, Jr. (Town Administrator)

#### **Approval of Minutes**

*The November 9, 2011 minutes were approved.*

The board welcomed their new member, Jesse Marchand.

The Hooksett Chambers of Commerce is hosting an after-hours event for local businesses tonight at 5:30 pm at Fairfield Inn in Hooksett. HEDC members are all invited to attend.

#### **Town Planner Report**

J. Duffy informed the board of the following:

1. The Planning Board approved Regency Mortgage on By-Pass 28 close to the Manchester town line. A pre-construction meeting will be held this week and construction will start shortly.
2. A PSNH warehouse was approved to start construction behind the Safety Center. This building will hold all their transmission construction and maintenance supplies.
3. A carwash is under construction on Hooksett Road.
4. The number of commercial applications coming in has slowed down.

#### **Discussion with NH CIBOR (Commercial Investment Board of Realtors) members**

NH CIBOR is a professional organization that is dedicated to the advancement of commercial real estate and commercial real estate practitioners. It provides a central source of pertinent information, education, products, and service in conjunction with the standards of the National Association of Realtors, thereby creating an environment for the success of its members.

Topics of discussion:

- Exits 10 & 11 – The Town should lay out what it envisions for Exit 11 to make it easier for prospective developers.
- Email sign-up to receive HEDC agendas/minutes/notices.

- “One-click” access to HEDC website with up-to-date accurate data, including, i.e., location, population, points of interest, zoning, infrastructure, etc. Available sites should be downloadable. Companies are looking for very specific sites.
- Town boards and staff should be informed, cooperative and willing to work with brokers and developers. Develop a public-private partnership.
- Granite Hill Market Place currently has the lowest vacancy since 1990.
- Town Regulations and Procedures – Reduce regulations to encourage growth and consider making procedures business “friendly”.
- Formulate a target market to bring economic development. Figure out what the Town’s niche is.
- Reach out to NH Economic Development Association and other communities for some ideas.

J. Gryval stated the Planning Board does not have any problems with developers. The problem comes from the engineering firms the developers hire. The engineering firms get a checklist to make sure nothing is missed. If everything on the checklist is done, some projects could be approved in one night. Some engineering firms try to see how much they can get away with and blame the delay on the Planning Board.

The Town has a Technical Review Committee that reviews projects prior to being presented to the Planning Board.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned.

### **2012 Meeting Schedule**

January 11, 2012

February 8, 2012

March 14, 2012

April 11, 2012

May 9, 2012

June 13, 2012

Respectfully submitted by,

Evelyn F. Horn  
Administrative Assistant