

## MINUTES

### **HOOKSETT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HOOKSETT TOWN HALL Wednesday, September 12, 2012**

**Call to Order:** Chair C. Ahlquist called the meeting to order.

**Present:** Chair Craig Ahlquist, William Gillett, William King, Matt Mercier, Nicholas Mercier, Mark Sanborn, David Scarpetti

**Staff:** Dean E. Shankle, Jr. (Town Administrator), Jo Ann Duffy (Town Planner)

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**June 12, 2012 – The minutes were approved.**

#### **Pending Projects Review – J. Duffy**

- Ritchie Brothers Auction received approval, not expecting them to do anything until Spring.
- No big merchants on the horizon.
- 2 subdivisions scheduled for October.
- Reviewing the Economic Development Chapter of the Master Plan.

#### **Exit 11 Update**

As reported by the Town Planner, Ritchie Brothers received approval on their project.

Jeff Larrabee presented an update on his project on an 84-acre property (70 commercial acres and 14 residential acres). They have cut some trees and will start excavation on Monday. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the NH Antique and Barn Preservation group is coming to explore possibilities of restoring the barn this year. They are trying to get a restaurant on the corner, a hotel on the other lot and winery down the road. A collection of lilacs will also be added to the property. They are working with PSNH to put the power lines underground.

The initial plan is to add a 75-room hotel (NH Highway Hotel) with a conference center attached to it. J. Larrabee added he is thankful the Ritchie Brothers project was approved. It provides clarity he needed for his planned complimentary development.

#### **HEDC Chair and Vice-Chair**

*M. Mercier was nominated as Chair of HEDC.*

**M. Mercier was appointed as Chair.**

*W. King was nominated as Vice-Chair.*

**W. King was appointed as Vice-Chair.**

#### **Tom Barrett Resignation**

The board accepted the resignation.

**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

CEDS is an organization which includes the Concord Region, Southern Region and Central Region that is currently working on putting together an economic development plan.

W. King offered to be HEDC's representative.

**HEDC Master Plan Chapter Status**

C. Ahlquist will have electronic copies sent to all members for a final review. This will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting for acceptance and recommendation to be adopted. It will then be presented to the Planning Board in mid-October for approval and adoption.

**HEDC Role Moving Forward**

Discussion on HEDC's role centered on the following:

- Streamline and simplify HEDC's role.
- Continue the Ambassadors' Program and advocate for existing businesses in Town.
- Encourage new businesses to come to Hooksett and analyze why businesses move out of Town in favor of other towns, i.e., Manchester.
- Reach out to Planning Board and Town Council and unify the vision for the (3) boards.
- Work with the local Chamber of Commerce as well as Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

M. Mercier summarize the discussion by identifying the (3) basic role of HEDC.

1. Ambassadors' Program – Advocating for existing businesses.
2. Identifying and encouraging new businesses.
3. Unified vision for the Town Council, Planning Board and HEDC.

The board will discuss further at their next meeting.

**Town of Hooksett Fraud Policy**

This policy was adopted by the Town Council. Each member is required to sign the Fraud Policy.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned.

**Meeting Schedule**

October 10, 2012  
November 14, 2012  
December 12, 2012

Respectfully submitted by,

Evelyn F. Horn  
Administrative Assistant