

Jaffrey Economic Development Council

Draft Minutes 05/27/2015

9:00 am Town Office

Present: Bill Schofield, Chair, Larry Alvarez, Peter Davis, Cathy Furze, Sam Hackler, Don MacIsaac, Ed Merrell

Melanie McDonald, Max Mitchell

Staff: Jo Anne Carr

1. RFQ Elite Laundry

Jo Anne presented the Request for Qualifications for the redevelopment of the Elite Laundry site. The request is intended to identify qualified developers to propose and execute a design/build project on the Elite Laundry site. The Town expects the developer to enter into a cooperative agreement in a lease/purchase contract with the goal of completion within a 2 year period from the date of the signed contract. Specifically the Town is seeking developers that are familiar with the commercial and real estate market in Jaffrey and the Monadnock region, has experience working with a municipality in private /public development which could include financing and grant writing. Most particularly, the Town is interested in in the revitalization of Downtown, promoting pedestrian access, and highlight low-impact development.

When the Selectmen give the approval to post the RFQ, it will be posted locally and regionally.

2. USDA Revolving Loan Fund

Jo Anne is working with the regional program manager out of Vermont to re-scope the grant. As the loan program has not been successful, the EDC RLF sub committee has recommended that the funds be used to conduct a market analysis for a particular commercial property. The decision is pending from USDA.

3. Regional Branding Task Force

Melanie gave a brief presentation on the Monadnock Regional Branding Task Force which highlights features about the Monadnock Region: entrepreneurial opportunities, engaging younger people in the future of the region, the natural environment and the arts. While there was some concern with the difference between creating a regional "Brand" and marketing a region, there was agreement on the identified attributes of the region, what makes the Monadnock Region special. Suggestions for the task force included consideration of forward thinking in the use of the branding effort, how do we use the brand across the region to build a better business community? Melanie thanks the members for the time and helpful comments, she will bring these back to the task force.

4. Status reports

Signs: The contract for the sign for the Stone Arch Bridge will have to be updated, and the sketches will be ready for the next meeting.

4. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: June 24, 2015