

Jaffrey Economic Development Council
Draft Minutes 9/26/16

9:00 am Town Office

Present: Bill Schofield, Chair, Larry Alvarez, Dominique Caissie, Peter Chamberlain, Vice Chair, Sam Hackler, Don MacIsaac, Ed Merrell,

Max Mitchell, Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce
Melanie McDonald, TEAM Jaffrey

Staff: Jo Anne Carr

1. Nancy DuBosque, NH Small Business Development Center

Nancy began by explaining that the SBDC is a program of the Small Business development Administration and partners with the Petr T. Paul School of Business at UNH. Nancy is a certified Business Advisor with specialties in Real Estate, Land Use, Agriculture and farming. With the office located on the Keene State campus she has a strong connection with the college and can provide research and project assistance through internships.

Her primary interest and strength is leveraging investment dollars for start-ups. The SBDC provides no cost advising on business planning, marketing, strategic planning, social media and financing (i.e. crowd funding).

What she has seen in the region and throughout NH is the out migration of workers who might get their education here and then leave for better work/life balance. As a response to this she suggests marketing our best attributes which might include the Creative Economy, tourism, food/hotel industry and agricultural products.

A suggestion from the EDC was in order to better understand our capacity we should develop a database of available properties (we had discussed this earlier this year – perhaps time to launch?). NH Department of Resources and Economic Development has a website called Choose NH which identifies available properties, demographics, business clusters etc. Jaffrey could benefit from being present on that site.

Another issue raised with respect to building our economy is the lack of available space in the downtown business district.

Suggested tools are to evaluate the downtown zoning, perhaps expand the DT TIFD to include potential redevelopment opportunities. We should take advantage of branding/marketing Mount Monadnock as a unique feature of our community, especially as this has come up in our recent surveys as an important reason why people live here. We should also evaluate how people find out about our resources and assets.

A related question came up during the discussion was regarding TEAM Jaffrey's Strategic Planning initiative, we'd like to have an update on that.

2. TIFD Sub Committee Update

AS we had run short on time, Jo Anne reported that the committee membership was accepted by the Board of Selectmen. TIFD Advisory members are responsible for reviewing and approving their respective district budgets. The committee meets as part of the over EDC, no additional meetings are required.

3. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: October 26, 2016