

**MINUTES OF THE STRATHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2003**

The Chair, Sharon Sykas, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of the Municipal Center. Other members present were Stella Scamman, Felix McGuigan, and Steve Horlacher.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of December 18, 2002 were approved as read.

II. Reports of Committee Members:

A. Steve Horlacher – Board of Selectmen.

Minutes of December 2, 2002 indicated the Town is working with the NH Municipal Association to find a full-time Town Planner. A total of 28 applications have been received, which the Selectmen plan to review at a special meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2002, if a representative of the NHMA can be present.

B. Felix McGuigan – Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce, Business Development Committee.

On Tuesday, January 14, 2003, Felix participated in a visit by that committee to the SIGARMS Co. facility in Exeter. SIGARMS is a manufacturer of precision firearms. He called it the "Cadillac of the handgun market." It is a locally operated company that has shown substantial growth over the last two years. Its sales volume in 2002 was about \$40 million, and projects a volume of \$55 million in 2003. Similarly, it had 140 employees in 2002, but expects to employ 200 people in 2003. Its principal customers are retail stores and law enforcement agencies. The tour was very interesting and well attended as 14 of the committee's 15 members were on hand.

C. Sharon Sykas – 2003 Town Budget.

Sharon said that she and Donna Jensen would appear tomorrow before the Town Budget Committee. She will present and defend the proposed EDC budget and Donna would do the same for the Beautification Committee.

D. Sharon Sykas – Stratham's Municipal Website.

Sharon reported she had received official notification of the Town's receipt of the \$7,300 matching grant from NHDRED to develop our municipal website. She requested this document be made a part of the Committee's permanent file.

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For the website update we are still waiting for information from the Police and Fire Departments. Felix volunteered to contact Susan Conway for an update of the information on the industrial park.

Sharon then discussed some of the more interesting inquiries appearing on the website over the past year. These inquiries often concerned the availability of housing, commercial space or property zoned for industrial uses. However, in nearly all cases the inquirers provided insufficient information to be answered in a meaningful way without engaging in a further exchange of e-mail. This raised the issue of whether it was proper for our Committee to respond directly to such inquiries since the financial interests of various homeowners and businesses in Stratham could be affected. Sharon pointed out again, as she had before, that the Committee needed to establish a policy and protocol to deal effectively and fairly with these inquiries. After a brief discussion, all members agreed this issue would have to be resolved in the near future.

E. Sharon Sykas – Expansion of Commercial & Industrial Zones.

Sharon distributed copies of a tax and zoning map of the southern corner of Stratham showing the parcels of land the Committee is studying. She said we needed to consult the table of permitted uses in the Town Zoning Ordinance, and determine other requirements for development, such as setbacks, etc. Steve volunteered to obtain one or more copies of the Town Zoning Ordinance, which contains such information. It was agreed that a study and discussion of the Zoning Ordinance would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

III. Other Business.

A. Sharon said she would be out of town from February 26, 2003 through April 3, 2003.

There being no further business, the committee was adjourned until 9:00 a.m. on February 12, 2003.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen L. Horlacher  
Recording Secretary