**Minutes of the Economic Development Committee**

**Meeting December 10, 2015**

Attendees: Erik Espling, Chuck Osgood, Sarah Zmistowski, Pat Rice

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm and the minutes of the September 9th meeting were approved unanimously.

* **Comprehensive Plan:** Pat handed out the state requirements for the Economic Development section of any Comprehensive Plan. Members reviewed the requirements and requested the prior Economic Development Section of the Veazie Comprehensive Plan. Questions also arose about if a consultant has been hired to write the plan and clarification from the Don MacKay of status of the comprehensive plan update. Action Item: Pat will get copies of the prior Economic Development Section for the next meeting and she will also contact Don MacKay to get an update on what is being done before, the Economic Development Committee proceeds.
* **Notes on Dynergy site visit:** Chuck, Sarah and Pat met with Brian Ahern of Dynegy, met on November 10th. Brian gave an overview of the plant operations and some of the challenges facing the facility. The purpose of the meeting was to see if there were other types of businesses that could benefit by being situated close to the Dynergy plant. Brian only mentioned that one Dynergy plant had a chemical manufacturer nearby but he was not familiar with the details. Brian then gave us a tour of the entire Veazie plant. Other possible site visit is Collabric: Action Item: Erik will contact to see if site visit is possible.
* **Discussion on new development:** “What do we have to work with?” was a question that came up with regard to the land or structures that could be used for development. The committee does not have a good handle on what Town owned property there is to attract development. Although, not Town owned, the School Street area is seen as a potential area for economic development. Suggestions for possible candidates for that area as well as the area near Dynergy were: light industrial fabrication, Jackson Lab extension, EMMC hospital/office space, storage, low impact warehousing, and University Research area. Action Item: Pat will contact Mark to give us a detailed listing of potential lands for development.
* **Orono Economic Development:** The committee is open to working with neighboring Economic Development leaders when we encounter mutual projects. Action Item: Pat will invite David Milan, Orono Economic Development Director, to the next meeting.
* **Other:** The idea of a networking event for existing Veazie businesses was put forth. All members felt that this was a good idea and that we should pursue it. Some possible places for hosting such an event were- Qualy Granite, Flaggs, and Collabric. This will be a topic of discussion for our next meeting. The idea of a bike path along the river was brought up as a recreational opportunity that could attract development. Veazie does lend itself to such development but this would probably be an item for the Conservation Committee.

**Next meeting:** -not scheduled until we find out what date works best for David Milan to attend the next meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.