

Town of Boscawen
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Boscawen Municipal Complex
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Barbara Randall—Chair; John Porter—Vice Chair; Adele Sanborn; Jacob Martin; Michael Tardiff— Executive Director of Central NH Regional Planning Commission; Lorrie Carey—Ex-Officio (Virtual)

Members Excused:

Members Absent: Mason Donovan and Caroletta Alicea

Staff Present: Kellee Jo Easler—Planning & Community Development Director; Kearsten O'Brien—Deputy Planning & Community Development Director (Virtual) and Kara Gallagher— Planning & Community Development Assistant

Guests Present: Bill Murphy—Penacook Boscawen Water Precinct; Nate Young—Penacook Boscawen Water Precinct; Frank Dineen—Penacook Boscawen Water Precinct

Chair Randall opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

PCD Assistant Gallagher completed roll call.

Minutes:

Ex-Officio Carey requested several changes:

- Line 4-Change “final” to “draft”
- Line 9-Add Jacob Martin as a member
- Line 35-Add a comma after “Suncook”
- Line 38-Add a comma after “currently”
- Line 40-Change “within the laboratories” to “with laboratories”
- Line 42-Sentence to read “The asbestos was found in small amounts...”
- Line 52-Add a comma after “production”
- Line 59-Sentence to read “...touch base with the EDC about what the Committee’s...”
- Line 61-Change “Town Businesses” to “town businesses”
- Line 61-62-Sentence to read “...local businesses should have first priority and then invite businesses in neighboring towns.”

Vice Chair Porter motioned to accept the 11.07.22 draft minutes as amended. Seconded by Chair Randall. All in favor. None opposed. One abstention.

New Business:

PBWP Update: Mr. Murphy said the current houses being built within the precinct are being tied in without issues, and there is no risk of not being able to provide water due to volume. The Precinct is looking for another water source as a supplement to the three existing wells. He said sooner or later it will be needed for capacity. They have located some potential sites. In the spring they will complete a drilling exploration. Mr. Young said the project is still in the early stages, approximately one year into about a seven year process. He said this process first began around 2001, and then came to a halt around 2003-2004, until last year. Ninety-five percent of this project, so far, has been covered by grant money and has kept the burden off of the precinct's members. Discussion ensued about potential well sites and the requirements of DES.

Chair Randall said she foresees a lot of growth in the next few years and would like to keep the communication open between the EDC and the Water Precinct. Mr. Young said they would be happy to attend future meetings if there are questions by the EDC, or if there are large developments to keep the Precinct in the loop. Mr. Tardiff mentioned the InvestNH project that is projected to go to Town Meeting 2024. He hopes the Precinct will plan to be involved in the continuing conversation. All agreed.

Mrs. Sanborn asked if the new well site will replace one of the older wells. Mr. Young said there are three current wells that work as a single well. During the summer months, two out of the three wells must run all the time. The hope is that the new well site could stand alone and be the equivalent of the current three wells. The three current wells would not be decommissioned, but would become backups. Chair Randall asked about the grant the Precinct received. Mr. Young said last year they received \$50,000, and they just applied for the same grant for this year.

PCD Director Easler asked who she could contact in regards to development in the future. Mr. Murphy said any of the three commissioners, and they will share the information amongst themselves. They suggested giving out their emails to developers.

InvestNH Project: Mr. Tardiff said the project application was approved in November. This is funding available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He said there is about a year until Town Meeting 2024 to talk about potential changes. The proposal to kick off the project is to update the housing section of the Master Plan, which would include the Mill Redevelopment 206 District, Cluster or Planned Unit Development, tax increment finance and more.

Old Business:

Municipal Transportation Tax: Chair Randall said that the Municipal Transportation Tax had been sent to the Select Board for approval and was accepted. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien said the Select Board has asked for a representative of the EDC to speak at Town Meeting about this topic. Chair Randall volunteered. Mr. Tardiff said he would put together a document of frequently asked questions for Chair Randall to have available. Vice Chair Porter asked if this had gone through the Warrant process. PCD Director said it will.

Harvest Festival Proposal: Mrs. Sanborn asked if the date had been confirmed. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien asked if there was a date the EDC had in mind. Mrs. Sanborn suggested September for nicer weather. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien was concerned for attendance as that is a popular time of year for fairs. Vice Chair Porter asked if there is a possible indoor venue that could host the festival. Chair Randall said it would be a great idea to showcase one of the businesses in town by hosting. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien suggested Avaloch Farm Music Institute. She will contact Ashley Bathgate to find out if they would be willing to discuss this.

Other Business:

Planning and Community Development Department Update: PCD Director Easler informed the EDC of several developments happening within the town, including a subdivision and gravel pit that were going before the Planning Board that night. She said she has kept in contact with the gentleman that bought 145 King Street and will continue to inform the EDC as the cleanup progresses.

The next meeting will be held on February 7th, 2023.

Vice Chair Porter motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Sanborn. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Kara Gallagher.