

**Town of Boscawen
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Final Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Barbara Randall—Chair; John Porter—Vice Chair; Jacob Martin; Lorrie Carey—Ex-Officio

Excused: Adele Sanborn; Mason Donovan—Alternate

Staff Present: Kellee Easler- Planning & Community Development Director, Kearsten O'Brien—Deputy Planning & Community Development Director and Kara Gallagher—Planning & Community Development Assistant

Guests Present: Matt Taylor & Vincent Pagano—Central NH Regional Planning Commission, Bill Murphy- Penacook Boscawen Water Precinct

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

PCD Assistant Gallagher completed roll call.

Minutes:

Mr. John Porter motioned to accept the 04.04.23 draft minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Jacob Martin. All in favor. None opposed.

New Business:

Appointment Application: Mr. Thomas Laliberte submitted an application to join the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Laliberte said he would like to contribute to his community. He is currently an assistant super attendant for the Bedford School District. He believes he can learn quickly and willing to learn more about the EDC and contribute his time and ideas. Chair Randall asked when Mr. Laliberte can attend a Select Board meeting to be appointed to the Committee. Mr. Laliberte said he can attend the meeting on Thursday the 11th.

Old Business:

Fall Festival Update: Deputy O'Brien informed the EDC that she has been speaking with Ashley Bathgate at Avaloch, and they will be getting in touch to discuss and have a written plan as to who will be taking care of what for the festival. Deputy O'Brien asked the EDC if they are fully committed to work on the project while she is out on Maternity leave. The EDC agreed to being fully committed and would like to know the turn out of the discussion with Ms. Bathgate.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies: Mr. Vincent Pagano went over the survey Deputy O'Brien created for the CEDS. Deputy O'Brien suggested adding the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail projects to the CEDS. Director Easler mentioned the housing project at Merrimack County and she will speak with the County Commissioner about adding it to the CEDS. Deputy O'Brien suggested adding Telecommunication to the list because Boscawen's cell phone service is very spotty. Mr. Pagano said that after the last CEDS meeting that may become a regional plan and he will make sure Boscawen gets on the list for that. Mr. Murphy said that the Well projects are moving forward and they have received grant money for that, but it could be a project to add to the list. Mr. Pagano said that he will send the PCD Office the project applications and then they can move forward with submitting the projects.

TIF: Mr. Matt Taylor stated that TIF districts are a good way to fund infrastructure. The Town and Water Precinct could use the TIF district to fund future projects. At a previous position he was in he helped create a TIF district for the Town of Bow to help expand their water lines. He would like to know if the precinct would be willing to meet with the Select Board to talk about a TIF. Mr. Murphy asked if the TIF district could help with upgrades to Chandler Street. Mr. Taylor said it works best for where there is an increase for value. It could help pay for the project if the value for the area would be increasing. Mr. Murphy said the Commercial Street area lends itself more to a TIF district. One of the things that needs to happen on Commercial Street is that it needs to be reconstructed. There are old canals and penstock under it. Ex-Officio Carey suggested setting a time to meet with Precinct and the Select Board this summer. Director Easler suggested doing the end of June. Mr. Taylor asked if there was anything summarizing what the precinct is planning to get done. Mr. Murphy said the only big projects they are focusing on right now are finding new well locations and the sewer/ water project Phases 3 & 4. Ex-Officio Carey asked what Mr. Murphy's feeling were on a TIF district. Mr. Murphy said he has no issue with it if the area fits. Director Easler said she will send out a meeting invite for the end of June to send to the Commissioners to meet with the Select Board.

Chair Randall motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Martin. All in favor. None opposed.

The next meeting will be held on June 6th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Kearsten O'Brien.