

Town of Boscawen
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 7th 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Barbara Randall – Chair, John Porter – Vice Chair; Adele Sanborn, Lorrie Carey – Ex-Officio & Vincent Pagano – Central NH Regional Planning Commission

Members Excused: Jacob Martin, Tom Laliberte, Sean Goldman, and Mason Donovan – Alternate

Staff Present: Kellee Easler – Planning and Community Development Director

Guests Present: Josh Crawford & Jenna Sanchez

Chair Randall opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and completed roll call.

Minutes:

Ex-Officio Carey requested two changes:

- Line 48-Change “sponsored” to “sponsor”.
- Line 92-Change “that” to “about”.

Ex-Officio Carey motioned to accept the 10/3/23 draft minutes as amended. Seconded by Vice Chair Porter. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business:

1st Annual Pumpkin Ride & Walk Recap: Chair Randall said she thought the event went very well considering how quickly it was planned. She said an impressive number of people attended and she felt it was well received. The EDC discussed the pros and cons of the event and what they could do differently next year:

- The area should be less spread out and should be concentrated around Jamie Welch Park.
- The Rail Trail Walk should be more interactive, maybe incorporate a scavenger hunt.
- Attract more vendors by sending out invitations earlier.
- Focus on both activities for both adult and children.
- Change the History Walk to a presentation with a potential reenactment and set it up near the vendors.
- Setting next year’s date early.

Chair Randall suggested setting a tentative date of October 5th, 2024. This will be confirmed at the next meeting when the missing EDC members are in attendance.

New Business:

2024 Budget: PCD Director Easler wanted to discuss adding more into her budget for the EDC because the town is growing so quickly. She said she budgeted \$1000 for printing and materials but was open to increasing that number. Ex-Officio Carey suggested adding another \$200 for permit fees. Vice Chair Porter suggested rounding up to \$1500 to plan for unexpected costs. All concurred.

Town Flag Discussion: Mr. Josh Crawford and Ms. Jenna Sanchez were present to discuss the potential for the creation of a town flag. Mr. Crawford is a vexillologist, or a person who studies flags. Vexillology is the study of the history, symbolism, and usage of flags. Mr. Crawford said he moved to Boscawen in 2016 and loves the town. He wondered if Boscawen had a town flag and as far as he could tell, it does not. He said some pros to having a town flag are symbolism, pride, and unity. He said not every town or city in NH has a flag, but there are many that do. There are 5 basic rules of flag design:

1. Keep it simple.
2. Use meaningful symbols.
3. Choose your colors wisely.
4. Pay attention to balance.
5. Think about the flag's use.

Mr. Crawford showed the North American Vexillological Association's top 25 and worst 25 rated flags in the country. These are what they consider to be the best and worst town and city flags according to their rules. He said there are a few ways that towns make their flag official, but most towns and cities bring a flag design to the Select Board for approval. Mr. Crawford created a flag as a starting point which is based off the town seal. He calls it the "Crossroads of NH" flag. Mr. Crawford would like feedback from the EDC before he takes his presentation to the Select Board for their approval. Ex-Officio Carey offered some changes regarding the design and symbolism.

Chair Randall motioned to recommend Mr. Crawford's concept for a town flag design to the Select Board for their approval. Seconded by Ex-Officio Carey. All in favor. None opposed.

PCD Director Easler will work with Town Administrator Katie Phelps to get Mr. Crawford on a future Select Board agenda.

Other Business:

PCD Director Easler said she sent out the 4th billing which included the InvestNH grant. CNHRPC is looking to have another Visioning Session for residents hopefully in December

before the Planning Board meeting. They didn't get the kind of participation or feedback they were looking for at Old Home Day.

Mr. Pagano said Bridget Beckwith, who runs and manages the Economic Revitalization Zone (ERZ) Tax Credits with NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs (NHBEA), has offered to meet with EDCs and members of the public, specifically those who own property within the ERZ. He said he could reach out to her to invite her to a future meeting and send invitation post cards to the residents who own property within the ERZ. He said Loudon will be doing this next month. Chair Randall suggested the January 2nd meeting. All concurred.

Mr. Pagano, Mr. Matt Monahan, PCD Director Easler and PCD Assistant Kara Gallagher went to the NHBEA 2023 Econ Forum Conference last week. The conference focused on the Comprehensive Economic Development Regions (CEDR). PCD Director Easler sent out the CEDR information received at the conference.

Vice Chair Porter motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Ex-Officio Carey. All in favor. None opposed.

The next meeting will be held on December 5th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Kara Gallagher.