

**Town of Boscawen
Economic Development
Boscawen Municipal Complex
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 5, 2021 at 5:30 PM**

Present: Mason Donovan – Chair; Barbara Randall–Vice Chair; John Porter; Caroletta Alicea; Lorrie Carey –Ex-Officio;

Mike Tardiff, Executive Director - **Central NH Regional Planning Commission**

Staff Present: Kellee Jo Easler – Planning & Community Development Director; Crystal Tuttle– Recording Secretary; Kearsten O’Brien- Planning and Community Development Assistant

Planning and Community Development Director Kellee Jo Easler opened the meeting at 5:32 P.M.

Director Easler read off the Covid-19 Public Meeting Notice of Telephonic Meetings, which reads as follows: In light of the state of emergency declared by the Governor on March 13, 2020, and to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the chair has determined that an emergency exists and that accordingly, until further notice, (a) members of the board may attend all board meetings telephonically, without the physical presence of a quorum; and (b) members of the public who wish to participate in hearings may, on request, participate telephonically or submit comments in writing to be included in the record of the hearing.

Roll call completed by Director Easler.

New Business:

Director Easler introduced Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, Executive Director Michael Tardiff. CNHRPC Director Tardiff read the Draft Mission Statement for the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Mason Donovan stated that he would keep action items, along with Ms. Crystal Tuttle for this meeting. Director Easler read the Rules of Procedure, and informed the Committee that they needed to elect officers for the Committee pursuant to RSA 91:A.

Mrs. Barbara Randall nominated to elect Mr. Donovan as Chair, Ms. Lorrie Carey seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Donovan nominated to elect Mrs. Randall as Vice-Chair, Ms. Carey seconded. All in favor.

According to the Rules of Procedure, a quorum needed for the Economic Development Committee is three, as there are five members. The Committee is interested in growing to seven

members. CRNHPC Director Tardiff read the draft of the Mission Statement to the Committee as follows: The Boscawen Economic Development Committee (BEDC) is an advisory committee consisting of a local citizens and business representatives appointed by the Boscawen Select Board.

The purpose of the BEDC is to promote a sustainable and diverse economic base that is consistent with Boscawen's rural and village character, to support existing businesses, and to encourage the location of new businesses in appropriate areas of Boscawen through the use of available economic development tools and strategies. Furthermore the BEDC will promote, assist and encourage initiatives that will further the economic objectives stated within the Boscawen Master Plan Economic Development Chapter.

Chair Donovan moved to accept the mission statement. Vice-Chair Randall seconded. All in favor.

CNHRPC Director Tardiff emphasized the key to gaining ground for Economic Development would be education. Webinars or workshops are also a great way to bring education to the residents. CNHRPC Director Tardiff also recommended adding recordings of meetings to the website, and for holding public comment at the end of meetings. This can be added to the Public Participation section of the Rules of Procedure. These will be brought to the Select Board for approval.

CNHRPC Director Tardiff spoke about the use of ERZ, and how this process can take some time to take off. This is a tax incentive for residents who pay a business profits tax and make an investment on a public facing improvement. CNHRPC Director Tardiff recommended sending notices to residents who live in this zone, and to put an educational piece in the paper or on the website. This can encourage people to choose this location for their businesses. 79E has not yet been approved in Boscawen, but with education this could pass at Town Meeting. The Committee should be thinking about Town meeting next year for tax incentives. Commercial and Industrial zones can come later down the road.

CNHRPC Director Tardiff recommended looking at the Penacook Boscawen Water Precinct at a later date. Infrastructure is important to Economic Development as well. The Committee will want to look at the financial impact of extending the Precinct Water to Revitalization Zones. A target of July for addressing this with the Precinct is realistic.

The next tool CNHRPC Director Tardiff spoke about was the Tax Increment Finance tool, which is aiming for something that will increase the overall valuation of a zone. Penacook and Concord have both used this tool. This is a more complex tool used to spur redevelopment. Exit 6 in Hopkinton is an example of this tool, with the creation of a TIF.

Mr. John Porter recommended utilizing the Rail Trail for signage to encourage people using the trail to come into Town to get a drink or lunch. Letting people know what is available in Town can encourage economic growth. Craig Tufts of CNHRPC can help with a trial walk to identify where this signage could go. Chair Donovan suggested getting donations from businesses in Town to give them an opportunity to advertise.

Ms. Carey motioned to adjourn. Vice-Chair Randall seconded. All in favor.

The Next Meeting is May 3, 2021 @ 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by, Crystal Tuttle.