

Town of Haverhill
Economic & Development Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
February 29, 2012

Present: Liz Shelton, Kevin Shelton, Homer May, Wendy Warcholik, Dick Guy, Dick Fabrizio, Howard Hatch, Wayne Fortier, Glenn English.

Chair Kevin Shelton opened the meeting at 6:35 pm. He announced that the Chamber of Commerce was holding a marketing meeting this coming Thursday at 5:30 pm. The goal was to form a regional marketing group.

- Dick Guy made a motion to amend the minutes of the January meeting to state that the sewer treatment plant renovations would hopefully increase capacity from 1/3 to ½, Wayne Fortier seconded and all approved.
- **Sub-committees** Kevin asked for reports
 1. Tech Committee: Homer May stated that Scott Nichols was working with his high school students to update the site. He said the Selectboard voted not to vary from the town web site as it now exists. Wendy stated that the Selectboard's tech committee met and decided to put up a draft web site using Dream-Press. There will be a meeting of this Committee on March 16th in Scott's classroom. Students will be involved in developing the Economic Development link to the Town website. This will be a separate project from the present Town web site. She said that the Selectboard has voted to keep the Town web site government- focused and that the Econ Development site would be a separate platform. Wayne agreed. He said the Board would be looking to this Committee for recommendations in conjunction with the Board's I.T. Committee. He said that the Board is not adverse to change.
 2. Cell Tower: Wendy reported that Carol Miller, from DRED, had not yet received a response from AT &T about locating on the tower in Woodsville. They are moving slow on expansion because of a legal case. Dick suggested we try US Cellular. He said Verizon has a tower in Ryegate. There was a discussion about using the Sheriff's Dept tower near the County Court House. Wayne volunteered to contact County Commissioner Burton. Howard Hatch said the County has all the infrastructure to accommodate a provider on their tower. He uses it. Dick Guy thought that an antenna on the County tower could close the gap of coverage in the Woodsville area. Wayne said he would talk to Tom Andross, Howard suggested he talk directly to the Sheriff.

3. Infrastructure: Dick Guy said they planned to meet tonight but he is the only one here from the group.
4. Tourism/Downtown: Liz reported that they were looking forward to participating in the Chamber Marketing meeting on Thursday. She asked about a clean up of the canoe access from Connecticut St. Glenn noted that it was Town property and a cleanup could be arranged. The site also needed some signs. Wendy asked about the letter from the Heritage Commission to the bank who owns the Henderson Block. Wayne explained that the letter was pulled by Jim Hobbs and hasn't been presented to the Selectboard yet. Glenn cautioned about the Town getting involved with private property. There was further discussion of dilapidated buildings.
5. Small Business: No report on progress of Nathan's business inventory and visitation. Everyone agreed that it was a good idea. Perhaps a joint committee should be put together with the Chamber of Commerce. Liz will start to develop a list of businesses using data from the Business Association. Kevin will talk to Gary Langloise about Chamber efforts. There was discussion about the Business Park tenants and perhaps forming a 501 c-3 for the Business Park.
6. Use for Old County Jail: Wayne said there will be a meeting of the Jail Committee on April 2 so there was nothing new to report. Wayne said he was high on developing a Learning Center like River Bend in Ox-Bow. This location would be more convenient for our kids. Howard said he wanted to change his mind about using the old Jail for food storage and processing using inmate labor. He said the new Jail would need the inmate labor instead. He said it's up to the Commissioners how the old jail building will be used.

Kevin reminded everyone of the Chamber marketing meeting on Thursday and briefly discussed their "Hang 10, Take5" tourism marketing effort for the region.

The next Committee meeting will be the 4th Wednesday in March (3/28) at 6:30 pm.

Wendy suggested that the Committee hold some kind of event and invite the businesses. We also should involve the education folks; principals and superintendents. Kevin thought that this could be done in April/May. Wayne noted that Arianna Kimball would like to be on the Committee.

Dick Guy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Liz and all approved.

Kevin adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Minutes taken and transcribed by Glenn English.

