

Tamworth Economic Development Commission
DRAFT Minutes
February 13, 2018

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM by Pat Farley.

Members Present: Barb Bloomberg, Erica Boynton, Trish Chaput, Pat Farley, Kelly Goodson, Kimball Packard
Alternates Present: Lloyd Hadden, Susan Ticehurst
Alternates Seated: Lloyd Hadden

Approval of Minutes:

- Kimball Packard moved, and Kelly Goodson seconded, to approve the minutes of January 9, 2018 as presented. The motion passed, 6-0, (with Barb Bloomberg arriving after the vote).

Public Comments: None.

Financial Update

- No new report is available at this date.

Promotional

- The signs arrived and are being stored in the basement of the Chocorua Community Church.
- Trish Chaput will check to see that they are as expected.
- One will be placed outside of the next tech forum.

Barn at the Preserve

- Plans for replacing the barn have been drawn up and construction has begun.
- The TEDC will not be involved in any fundraising for this project.

Tax Incentive Exemption

- Pat Farley reported on a warrant article regarding tax incentive exemptions.
 - "Shall the Town pursuant to RSA 72:81 adopt for a five-year period (5) a "new construction property tax exemption" of fifty percent (50 percent) of the increase in assessed value attributable to construction of new structures, additions, renovations or improvements to existing structures for commercial and industrial uses (as defined by RSA 72:80). If passed, this exemption would take effect in the tax year beginning April 1, 2018."
- Members discussed the pros and cons.
- The warrant article will not be endorsed by the commission as a whole.

Business Booklet

- Work on updating business contact information continues, with a significant number of changes identified. The task requires a few more hours of effort.
- Formatting and layout work remains to be done.
- The tentative goal is to complete compilation of information by April 30, 2018.
- Kimball Packard will post a draft of the booklet on the TEDC website for businesses to review and make any necessary corrections before publication.
- The goal is to hopefully have the booklet ready for printing in time to be distributed at Wet Paint in early May

Master Plan

- Susan Ticehurst and Pat Farley met with the Planning Board to see if there is interest in working jointly to update the Economic Development component of the master plan.
- The Planning Board does not plan to update the master plan at this time. Alternatively, it will meet with the boards, commissions and other entities charged with implementing the master plan to review progress to date.

Tech Forums

- The Facebook Forum was reviewed.

- Overall it went well and was well attended, with people expressing thankfulness for the content as well as the lack of a fee.
- It was noted that some people were focused on business applications, while some were interested in personal use.
- Suggestions included the following:
 - Set ground rules at the beginning about such things as when to ask questions.
 - Offer a short break midway through the program.
- People requested more help with their business pages so the TEDC may offer follow up sessions after the currently scheduled tech forums have been completed.
- In preparation for the Instagram Forum,
 - Trish will get key and find out how to run the projector.
 - Erica will contact attendees to confirm attendance.

Wet Paint

- The subcommittee will meet on Monday, February 19th, at 6 PM, at The Preserve.

Other Projects

Commercial Real Estate Brokers' Open House

- The Commission will consider alternative ways to draw attention to the vacant buildings in town, perhaps through publicity.

New Business Grand Openings

- The Commission will begin a practice of visiting new businesses to welcome them to the community, introduce the commission and offer a listing in the business booklet.
- Kimball Packard visit the new shop at the red barn in Chocorua , representing the TEDC.

Other Business

- The TEDC will work with the town office to update the resource page on the town website, highlighting local businesses.

Public Comments: None

Next Meeting: At the call of the chair.

Adjournment: Lloyd Hadden moved, and Kelly Goodson seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM. The motion passed, 7-0.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Tamworth Economic Development Commission will develop a strategy for the retention, growth and attraction of businesses in Tamworth. The Commission should be charged with:

- Supporting and maintaining the existing business base of our town and promoting a climate friendly to new business.
- Identifying the specific types of businesses that match the character of Tamworth
- Making realistic recommendations to the town to enable growth of its existing business base; retain and promote existing businesses, and attract new businesses to the town.
- Coordinating town economic development activities with surrounding towns and utilize regional and state resources.

Strategy for reaching our goals:

1. Develop long term goals;
2. Spin off short term objectives;
3. Convert to a project w/committee;
4. Develop detailed objectives & actions; continually review, track and assess;
5. Make them happen!