

Tamworth Economic Development Commission
DRAFT Minutes
November 14, 2017

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chair Pat Farley at 6:00.

Members Present: Trish Chaput, Pat Farley, Kelly Goodson (arriving at 6:12), Kimball Packard, Mary Phelps
Alternates Present: Barb Bloomberg, Lloyd Hadden, Susan Ticehurst

Minutes:

- The spelling of Ann McGarity's name was corrected on the draft minutes of 10/30/17.
- Kimball Packard moved, and Barb Bloomberg seconded, to approve the minutes of 10/30/17, as corrected. Motion passed, 7:0.

Public Comments: None.

Reports:

Recap of Tech Forum

- The event was a success, with attendees responding positively.
- People appreciated that there is no charge for the workshops.
- Most attendees signed up for future workshops, with 15-17 reserving for each session.
- Pat Farley will put a notice on the Tamworth Exchange, thanking presenters and letting people know they can still sign up for workshops.

Business Booklet

- The goal is to have the draft of the business booklet ready for review by the January, 2018 commission meeting, to be ready for printing by the February meeting.
- The committee has completed most edits.
- The committee plans to call each business to confirm information, including preferred method of contact.
- The committee is considering a simplified format, similar to one from the Greater Ossipee Chamber of Commerce, with just three printed lines per business.
- Trish Chaput will highlight changes made since the last version.
- The cover of booklet will be on glossy, colored stock.
- The inside front cover will list important numbers. The outside back cover will have the Commission logo and contact information. Pictures will be included.

Promotional

- Options for flag banners and sandwich board signs were discussed. Trish Chaput will compile information on options from commission members.
- Kimball Packard has created a website which includes a calendar for Commission events. The Tamworth Visitors Bureau covers other, non commission sponsored events. There is a link on each site directing viewers to the other site.

Barn

- The commission extended an invitation to the Preserve to let the community know what might be done to assist after their barn burned. When the time is appropriate, the commission will assist with coordinating an event or providing other assistance.

Grant Opportunity

- The Lakes Region Planning Commission has asked for assistance with identifying a project in Tamworth which might be eligible for a Northern Border Regional Commission grant.
- Successful applicants will have an economic development impact, with basic infrastructure projects such as water and sewer, telecommunications towers, or transportation facilities, favored.
- Funding will be up to \$400,000 and require a one-to-one match.
- Pat Farley has relayed the information to the town administrator. She will discuss this with the select board at their next meeting.
- More information can be found at www.nbrc.gov.

Other Business

- It was suggested that meetings include regular financial updates.
- Susan Ticehurst presented information comparing county poverty rates in New Hampshire, broken down by age group.
- Possible ways to support existing organizations who are addressing this situation were discussed. These organizations will be included on the "Friends" page of the website. A suggestion was made to coordinate a community volunteer day as a seasonal Fall event to support non-profit organizations that address poverty issues.
- The changing demographics toward an older population and the out-migration of college graduates were also raised as matters of concern to the commission.

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting: December 12, 2017

Adjournment: Kimaball Packard moved, and Lloyd Hadden seconded, to adjourn. Motion passed, 8-0.

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!