

## Economic Development Minutes

March 11, 2014

**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*
- . 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*

**Members present:** Pat Farley, Dennis Quinn, Kelly Goodson, Ellie Griffin

**Call to order** motion seconded and approved at 6:05 PM

**Motion to accept February minutes** - Approved

**Motion to accept Agenda** - Approved

### Committee Reports

#### **Tamwireless...**Dennis Quinn

Tamwireless is doing well. They recently bought new batteries, are still getting new customers, and not losing many customers. Ballot for board membership was sent to all subscribers. There has been a request to provide some kind of compass on the website to help one determine where the camera is posted at any given time. Dennis is looking into how to do this, as no software for that currently exists.

**Senior Housing** ....Willie Farnum was to report but was not at the meeting. Topic postponed until April.

#### **Tamworth Teen Leadership** ... Pat Farley

Reported on her meeting with the selectmen when she requested that the selectmen inquire of the insurance company how much more it would cost to cover the TTL program. The school board does not want to support the Teen Leadership Program through their insurance company. Pat does not have an answer yet, but hopes to soon.

**Sustainability** Kelly Goodson reported on the dinner she attended at Maynard Thompson's home to discuss Tamworth agribusiness and Farm to Table alliances, and Raise the Bar.

Maynard Thompson feels that NH is not meeting its full potential as an agricultural state with a large amount of land available for agribusiness. He feels that farmers, in addition to producing produce, meat, etc. for the local farmer's markets and some local shops, should further consider growing the more unusual produce and meats and bids that high-end restaurants in Boston would buy. He wants to see NH develop and become known as a producer of fine food products, both in New

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England and further, through internet sales, throughout the country. The TEDC does support local agribusiness, but feels that the exportation of produce would be more complicated and it would be up to the farmers to make that decision. If they did, TEDC would be supportive of their decision.

As an aside, but relevant: Hank Letard has built an Incubator Kitchen which will be available to people who would like to use it. Also, The Community School provides the use of their kitchen to people who are interested in beginning small businesses in food preparation and production.

Raise the Bar will have a follow-up breakfast for the farmers.

### **Recent Events**

Pat had a productive conversation with Sandwich's Recreation director about youth programs in Sandwich, which could be instructive to those working on the Teen Leadership Forum for Tamworth.

### **Old/New Business**

**NOTE:** Business list and Tamworth brochure distribution – we have many brochures. Members should pick them up from Pat and frequently distribute them around town.

**Public Comment** ...second opportunity of two opportunities for the public to address the board.

Next regular monthly meeting ...April 8, 2014 at 6:00 PM at Cook Library

### **Action Items:**

1. 2014 Tamworth Economic Development Commission slate
2. Updates of regional agricultural/ local product distribution
3. 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 it happen!