

Tamworth Economic Development Commission Minutes

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 6:30 PM at the Tamworth Lyceum

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.

6:36...Call to order by Chair Pat Farley.

Present: Pat Farley, David Grasse, Dennis Quinn, Susan Ticehurst, Willie Farnum

Motion to accept October minutes: moved to accept by Dennis Quinn, second Willie Farnum; motion passed, 5-0.

Motion to accept Agenda Dennis Quinn moved and Willie seconded to accept the agenda for the meeting. Motion passed, 5-0.

Committee Reports

Senior Housing

- An appraisal for a potential site was given to the owner but no response has been received.
- Another site previously considered is no longer an option.

AgriBusiness Forum and Website

- The response from participants was positive.
- A great deal of valuable information was presented by excellent speakers.
- The need for a meat processing facility and a commercial kitchen were noted.
- Some participants would like to have a follow up event in January.
- Pat will send Kelly the attendance spreadsheet to compile a list of the presenters for the Economic Development website's business contacts section.
- Dennis will add this information to the website and remove outdated information.
- Dennis will have the video uploaded to YouTube and then embed it on the website.
- The possible establishment of an agricultural commission was discussed.
- Janice Crawford and Katelyn are working on mapping and inventorying farmable land. It was noted that some of this information may be in the master plan, or identified by the Soil Conservation Service or Green Mountain Conservation Group.

- There was discussion of whether there was a marketing need for a map of the farms that are willing to have customers on site.

- Web site update

- Dennis will eliminate outdated information and add new businesses, as well as a piece on the AgriBusiness forum and its video link.
- A banner will be added for the 250th celebration.

Budget 2015

- Pat submitted a budget request for \$2,000 which is less than the \$2,250 requested last year. There was discussion about whether the brochure should be updated. No money will be requested for the teen leadership program. Because of potential Tamworth 250 events and materials, the request might be more.

Old/New Business

- Janice Crawford will come to a future Commission meeting to discuss marketing.
- Tamworth 250 Celebration: There was a discussion of how to bring businesses together for the 250th celebration, perhaps with promotions such as plaques or some “Tamworth Special” at \$2.50 or \$25. Ideas included a parade, woodsman’s day, business expo, street fair, decals. Another suggestion was to have a promotional packet with some economic history, a decal and a promotion for Tamworth as a good place to do business. There was general agreement to pursue a street fair on a Saturday in the summer. Dual purpose: for businesses to have a chance to promote themselves and to get businesses together to form a business group.

Action items.

- Pat will send Kelly the attendance spreadsheet to compile a list of the presenters.
- Dennis will add this information to the website and remove outdated information.
- Dennis will have the video uploaded to YouTube and then embed it on the website.
- Prepare to review mission statement, considering broadening the scope to include workers, the community and customers as well as business owners.
- Susan will continue to explore a community based job and/or skills initiative.

Adjourn at 8:09

Next regular monthly meeting ...no December meeting!! Next one..Second Tuesday in January, 2015 at 6 at the Cook library.

***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!*