

Tamworth

Economic Development Committee

Minutes from the January 6, 2011 meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Present at the meeting: Committee members present: Pat Farley, Karen McNiff, Dennis Quinn, Chris Franchi, Sheldon Perry. Absent: Bob Abraham, Keats Myer. Alternates present: Kristin McIntire.

New Business

- Alternate Kristin McIntire was appointed to be a committee member in lieu of one absent.
- Keats Myer has agreed to become a committee member.
- The November 4, 2010 minutes were reviewed and approved by the committee.

Committee Reports

- Broadband report- Dennis Quinn.

The three access points (Great Hill, Page Hill and Bunker Hill) are up and running, presently serving 41 households. The delivery system is working well. Surprisingly, bandwidth demand is greater from households than from businesses. Soon, the system will be contracting three times the bandwidth from NHVT. Currently there is a 2-megabyte download (2 mega down) limit to customers, which will become 3-mega down in the near future. Payments are equalized. Eventually, payments will reflect bandwidth. There is expected to be more demand as summer residences apply for the service. There was a discussion regarding radio "bounces" by willing customers to expand the service areas.

Tamwireless will apply for a \$30,000 loan for a Project Related Investment, to be paid back in 2013.

- Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC), Brownfield Program- Karen McNiff.

This is an EPA subset program, based in Boston, which is available to towns, that have properties with environmental "issues". A house with lead-based paint may qualify, for example. They analyze the situation and offer low interest loans to remedy the environmental hazards for qualifying properties.

- Tamworth Brochure- Kristin McIntire.

Kristin brought copies of the preliminary list of Tamworth businesses for the committee to review. We stopped at Pianoforte but the committee will continue to review the list on our own time and report changes to Kristin. The list will be posted on the Tamworth Exchange for public review and input.

Tamworthnh.net is nearly up and running and the Play in Tamworth, Eat in Tamworth, Sleep in Tamworth and Shop in Tamworth brochure/rack cards are about to be sent to the printer.

Old/New Business

- "Lightning Pitch"- Pat Farley.

See handout. The first paragraph follows:

"Lightning Pitch is the name of an event at which entrepreneurs from communities within the LRPC area "pitch" their business ideas to an audience of professionals, investors and service providers."

This is a regional effort with economic development committees from various towns convening with the Wentworth Economic Development Commission. Colleges may become involved.

- Idea of the month- Pat Farley.

The EDC would like to pose a monthly query on the Tamworth Exchange: "What business would do well in Tamworth?" The EDC would offer a suggestion to seed further ideas. These might include hydroponics, bio pellets, slaughter house, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM. The next meeting will be on February 3rd.