

Economic Development Tamworth

Minutes from the March 10, 2011 meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

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

Initial Business

- The February 10th minutes were approved with no changes.

Committee Reports

- Tamwireless broadband: Dennis Quinn updated the committee on recent progress. There is now double the bandwidth. There are presently 43 subscribers but need 100 to break even. They are engaging on a marketing campaign via pamphlets at town meeting, the Tamworth Exchange, and targeting potential subscribers in areas most in need. There is an effort to reach the east side of Washington Hill through a potential access point in Madison. There was a discussion about an easement issue on Bunker Hill.
- Lightning Pitch: A subgroup of the LRPC will be meeting to promote our Lightning Pitch concept.
- Brochures and Tamworthnh.net: Kristin led this discussion. The website is up and running. There was a consensus that expenditures should favor the website versus the brochure as this is the way people generally seek information. There was discussion about a calendar section and how to best present it. Dennis offered his work for ArtsTamworth.org as a possible template. We will print 750 more brochures at a cost of \$168.20, a sale price.
- Local business list: Kristin brought a hard copy of the business list (5.5 x 8.8 in.) as a prototype. When printed, it will be distributed to Tamworth residents. Corrections to the business list are still welcome.

Old/New Business

- Local food ordinance: Chris emailed the committee about a "food sovereignty law" which was passed in a small town in Maine. It would allow for the sale of locally produced food without the interference from regulators. Should we pursue such an ordinance in Tamworth? Chris will follow up.
- America Downtown: Keats discussed the value of strategic planning for a town and that the America Downtown program might be worth the considerable expense. Grants for such a program might be available and, with private funding, there would be no cost to the town. She will schedule a conference call with Virginia Mayer (or others) and the committee in the near future to gain more information.
- Partnering businesses: Robert Straw initiated a discussion about local business partnering to take our raw materials, process them into products and market them as a way to efficiently grow business within our town. The committee suggested using our Lightning Pitch concept to develop this idea.
- "Commission" vs. "Committee": Would changing our name make it seem more important when dealing with the state or other organizations? It might make us feel more important and taller, but not sure that this would have any significant impact.
- Walking Tour of Tamworth: The development of CD is back making progress with the addition of music and progress on the cover artwork. Dennis will be working on this.
- Next meeting guest: We would like to invite the manager and/or owner of the Tamworth Lyceum to come to our next meeting (or soon) in order to share their thoughts and visions of potential economic development in Tamworth.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM. The next meeting will be on April 7th, 7 PM, in Runnells Hall.