

Tamworth Economic Development Commission

Minutes from the May 5, 2011 meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Present at the meeting: Commission members present: Pat Farley, Sheldon Perry, Dennis Quinn, Keats Myer, Chris Franchi, Selectmen's representative- Willie Farnum. Absent: Karen McNiff. Alternates present: Kristin McIntire. From the public: Cynthia LaMont.

Initial Business

- Alternate Kristin McIntire replaced Karen McNiff for this meeting.
- The minutes from the April 7th minutes were approved.
- Pat suggested that we need a treasurer for our limited funds. Keats volunteered.
- Willie Farnum will replace Bob Abraham as the selectmen's representative to the commission.

Committee Reports

- Broadband, www.Tamwireless.net: Dennis updated the commission. The Bunker Hill access point is still in operation. Negotiations with SPONHF suggest that there may be a mitigation agreement for the use of the tower site in return for protected forest lands elsewhere. A targeted mailing to 125 potential customers has had a good response. The number of users has increased to 60. There have been discussions with Fair Point Communications about establishing an optical line to the church, which would dramatically increase the bandwidth of Tamwireless. Efforts to "light up" the east side of Washington Hill, the western shore of Chocorua Lake and even parts of Effingham are on going.
- The business list and brochures: Kristin will have the business lists printed in the near future. The rack cards will be combined into a single brochure as a cost saving measure. The new version was well received by the commission. We have 90 packets- brochures with rack cards, combined. These will go to the B&B's and selected

retailers. The next effort regarding the website, www.tamworthnh.net, will be to create website links for the listed businesses.

- Lightning pitch: Pat and Karen introduced Lightning Pitch to Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a subcommittee of LRPC. The concept is being very well received. They also attended an economic development meeting in Laconia which included a representative from Frank Guinta's office. Also attending were many of the town representatives to LRPC. This group is planning a fall event, which, in effect, will be a prelude to the planned Lightning Pitch event in the spring of next year. Again, enthusiasm for our Lightning Pitch concept abounds and planning for the spring event is already in progress. Pat will give a three-minute Lightning Pitch presentation at the LRPC annual meeting. Three minutes to Pat will seem like a blink of an eye!

Old/New Business

- Mount Washington Economic Development Council: Pat will be representing the Tamworth selectmen to this council. Pat would like to see our Lightning Pitch concept include members from this group. Sponsors will be needed to supply cash awards for various category winners at the Lightning Pitch event.
- The Posners' "Walking Tour of Tamworth" is now completed. Dennis reported that it should be out in the early summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM. The next meeting will be on June 2nd.