

Tamworth

Economic Development Committee

Minutes from the February 4, 2010 meeting

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

Present at the meeting: Committee members present: Pat Farley, Michelle Cleveland, Sheldon Perry, Willie Farnum; Those absent: Chris Moneypenny, Chris Franchi, Marletta Meduskuie. Alternates present: Karen McNiff. From the public present: Dennis Quinn.

The minutes from the December 3rd meeting were approved.

Committee Reports

There was a motion to accept the resignation of Becca Boyden as an alternate to the committee. It was voted unanimously to do so.

Pat led a discussion on the "Eggs and Issues Business Leadership Breakfast" which she attended. Statistics relating to New Hampshire's age groups and needy people were presented. Effects of the housing bubble and the financial impact of both manufacturing and tourism within the state were discussed. There were no particular solutions to these issues suggested during the meeting. For further information on these topics, go to www.nhpolicy.org.

Michelle talked briefly about an innovation network in Sandwich called MicroCredit-NH. She had provided a link to www.microcreditnh.org via email prior to the meeting. Other credit agencies such as the Ossipee Main Street Program and WEDCO in Wolfeboro were briefly mentioned as similar programs.

Topics that were put on hold for discussion included the business survey, mapping of existing businesses and the Tamworth brochure.

New Business

A discussion about how businesses can interconnect to help each other centered on the need to update our business list and to create the map of existing businesses in town. A sign pole with the names of local businesses was suggested and discussed.

There was a lengthy discussion on providing wireless internet service in Tamworth. The committee looked to the CyberPine Cooperative in Sandwich as a model. We would start with a central office (CO) near the Fair Point building and with an initial access point on Great Hill. Dennis Quinn suggested the need for a business plan. To determine this, we need to survey the town residents as to who has internet access, or not, and if so, which type, and would they be interested in a wireless system at a

suggested cost if it were available, etc. Michelle suggested using The Civic News bi-monthly publication as a vehicle for this. We need a short and catchy name for Tamworth wireless system.

Old Business

There was a handout summarizing the meeting on January 12th with NCIC director Tom Joyce.

There was another handout regarding the discussion on New Hampshire Public Radio about Fair Point Communication and whether it would be awarded federal stimulus money to provide broadband internet access to rural populations within the state.

Summary of actionable items

- Dennis will contact the Civic News regarding space for a survey or article concerning the proposed Tamworth wireless internet access system.
- Michelle will contact Chris Franchi about an updated business list and will give that to Pat.
- Marion Posner is to meet with Bob Cottrell in creating a business plan regarding a "Walking Tour" CD.
- We need to present to the selectmen a plan for the "Village Sign Pole" of businesses. We need visual references and possible location points.
- We need to name our wireless system.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. The next meeting will be on March 4th.