

Tamworth

Economic Development Committee

Minutes from the April 1, 2010 meeting

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

Present at the meeting: Committee members present: Pat Farley, Sheldon Perry, Chris Franchi, Marletta Maduskuie, Karen McNiff. Those absent: Michelle Cleveland, Bob Abraham. Alternate present: Kristin McIntire. Alternate absent: Peter Barnard. From the public present: Dennis Quinn, David Little and John Mersfelder.

New Business

- Approval of the 2/4/10 EDC minutes: Approved by the board.
- Approval of the 3/4/10 EDC minutes: Approved by the board.
- There was a motion to approve the updated slate of officers, board members and committee chairpersons as presented by Pat. This is listed as follows:
 - Pat Farley- Chairperson
 - Michelle Cleveland- Vice Chairperson and Research Committee Chair
 - Sheldon Perry- Secretary
 - Karen McNiff- Board member and Broadband Committee Chair
 - Chris Franchi- Board member and Tourism/Brochure Committee Chair
 - Marletta Maduskuie- Board member and Business Affairs Chair
 - Bob Abraham- Selectmen's representative to the board
 - Alternates to the EDC- Kristin McIntire and Peter Barnard.

The board approved the list of officers, board members, committee leaders and alternates.

Committee Reports

- Broadband- Dennis Quinn presented a map of roads and houses in central Tamworth which outlines the current availability of broadband access through Time Warner Cable and possible new DSL coverage areas via future bandwidth delivery.
 - Dennis has met with Gunnar Berg about creating a forum (information session), open to the public, regarding future DSL and wireless broadband coverage in Tamworth. It was decided to have this presentation on Tuesday, April 13th, 7 PM at the Townhouse. Notification to the town will be through a mailing to potential customers (with the aid of David Little's address lists) and through the Tamworth Exchange.
 - Dennis mentioned that there have been 54 responses to our broadband survey to date.
- Tourism- There was a brief discussion about the promotion of tourism in Tamworth. Pat gave an example of an event (the William James Society's Annual meeting (honoring the 100 year anniversary of his death in Chocorua) which will bring in 80 - 100 tourists this summer during the weekend of Aug. 13th.

- Aid to the food industry- There was a brief discussion about the need for a local slaughterhouse. The discussion shifted to the Tamworth Farmer's Market and the possibility of expanding that format to include crafts people. Dennis pointed out that this is not the mission of the market. It was agreed that the selling of crafts could develop into a destination marketplace but it would likely be at a separate venue and would be organized by the crafts people.
- Community development grants- Chris mentioned that more information is needed about grants for which Economic Development groups might apply. It was agreed that some research should be done in this area.
- Providing joint services in Tamworth- Marletta cited an example of a shared office facility that The Greater Ossipee Chamber of Commerce was developing. It was agreed that such a facility would have appeal to small businesses in Tamworth.

Old Business

- Business signs in Tamworth village- There was a discussion about having a "totem pole" of business signs in the village. Sheldon will talk with Karl Behr of the Tamworth Village Association (TVA) to get some feedback.

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Action Points

- Pat will talk with Parker about reserving the Townhouse.
- Dennis will talk with Gunnar Berg and Chris Franchi about the forum.
- Karen will contact the Conway Daily Sun to promote an article about DSL and wireless broadband in Tamworth.
- Michelle will research the potential for grants in regards to economic development.
- Sheldon will contact Karl Behr to get the TVA's feedback on a business sign in Tamworth village.
- Chris will email the board to generate feedback about the initial elements of the Tamworth brochure.
- Pat will contact Marion Posner to follow up on the DVD tour of Tamworth.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM. The next meeting will be on May 6th.