

**Tamworth
Economic Development Committee**

Minutes from the August 5, 2010 meeting

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

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

Alternate Kristin McIntire was asked to sit in for Sheldon Perry who was unable to be present.

New Business

- The July 1st minutes were approved.
- Marion and Richard Posner were not present but updated Pat Farley on the "Tamworth Audio Guide" CD prior to the meeting. They are still soliciting advertisers. Michelle Cleveland will approach the Cook Library and Chris Franchi will speak with the Farmers' Market.

Committee Reports

- Broadband: Dennis Quinn reported that contracts are in place with the UUFES and NHVT. The equipment to build the towers is arriving. The amount of property taken out of current use from the hilltops for towers needs to be determined for tax purposes as regards the hilltop landowners. The use of the top of Great Hill needs to be discussed with the Tamworth Fire Department. There will be a more complete update at the August 23rd meeting of The Tamworth Foundation's Annual Meeting to be held at 7:30 at Runnells Hall.
- The Tamworth Brochure: Chris Franchi and Kristin McIntire presented a rough draft of the brochure. Committee members were asked to submit additional ideas for content and photos. A second draft will be brought to the next meeting.
- Grants: 1. Federal Grant: Sustainable, Livable Communities Grant. In July, Michelle looked into a new grant posted by HUD/DOT/EPA with NEA*: Sustainable, Living Communities Grant. NH's 9 regional planning commissions are working together to submit one grant application that is due to HUD on August 23. The Nashua regional planning commission is the lead organization for this grant application. Michelle provided TEDC members with a handout on the grant and the State's grant application process. An electronic two-page attachment is included in this report. In August, Michelle attended a briefing on the Sustainable Grant hosted by the the NH Creative Economies Network. Arts organizations and the North Country's regional planning commission Executive Director discussed the opportunity for the State's regional planning commissions to engage the NH's arts alliances/councils as they draft the State's grant application--the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is a partner with HUD/DOT/EPA on this sustainable grant initiative. 2. Michelle spent time in July researching grant opportunities for the town of Tamworth and its economic development efforts. Most opportunities for small, rural communities such as Tamworth are with the US Department of Agriculture: Business and Cooperative Assistance programs/grants/loans; rural microenterprise assistance. Michelle is preparing a briefing packet to share with TEDC at their October meeting. Any timely opportunity will be sent to the members of TEDC for immediate review and consideration.

Old/New Business

- Meeting date adjustment: the committee opted to keep the current meeting date.
- LRPC: Pat reported that the Lakes Region Planning executive board and the CEDS(Comprehensive EcDev. Strategy Committee) are working toward having the region designated as an Economic Development District.
- Food co-op: Chris Franchi reported that the food co-op is in the fundraising stage and is looking for an attorney to help draft by-laws.
- Connecting entrepreneurs and investors: Karen McNiff suggested this effort be modeled after a yearly event held at Babson College during which entrepreneurs present their needs to an audience of potential investors. Chris Franchi to follow up on this idea.
- Solar Farming: There was a short discussion of pros and cons of this idea for Tamworth's future.
- Recognition program: the committee discussed ways to highlight Tamworth businesses and/or individuals with the main goal of celebrating specific milestones achieved. Those honored would be brought to the attention of the regional media in order to expose the greater area population to Tamworth's many assets.

Action Points

- Pat will ask Richard Posner for an electronic version of his CD proposal.
- Committee to think of additional companies for the CD project.
- Kristin will send Pat a list of photos currently needed for the brochure.
- Committee members will email additional ideas for the brochure to Kristin and Chris.
- Michelle will submit a matrix of her projects by the October meeting.
- Committee, if possible, will attend the August 23rd annual meeting of the Tamworth Foundation.
- Chris will explore formats for connecting entrepreneurs and investors.
- Kristin and Chris will continue work on brochure.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 2 at 7:00 PM.

Sustainable Communities Initiative - Background

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have formed an interagency Sustainable Communities Partnership to implement the administration's vision of developing sustainable communities. The Sustainable Communities Initiative is intended to advance development patterns that result in improved economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and social equity in metropolitan regions and rural communities.

In the 2010 Budget, Congress provided funding to HUD for a Sustainable Communities Initiative to improve regional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use and transportation decisions, and increase the capacity to improve land use planning and zoning policy. A significant amount of the funding will be available for regional integrated planning initiatives through HUD's Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program.

The final product of a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant will be a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development within each region that:

- Identifies regional housing, transportation, economic development, land use, environmental, energy, green space and water infrastructure goals and priorities
- Establishes locally appropriate performance goals and measures and provides strategies for meeting them
- Prioritizes projects that facilitate the implementation of the regional plan
- Substantively engages residents and stakeholders throughout the process
- Reflects sustainable development principles
- Enables federal dollars to be directed toward projects that have been identified and supported by local communities as those that best support regional sustainability goals

NH Sustainable Communities Initiative

The Sustainable Communities Initiative is directed specifically at the work of regional planning commissions. The concept is to foster greater coordination in comprehensive regional planning and focus on integrating the planning disciplines of transportation, land use, environment, economics and energy in a common, sustainable framework. Given their strong partnerships with key state agencies and close working relationships with their member communities, the NH Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) are ideally positioned to successfully lead the implementation of a sustainable planning framework in New Hampshire.

The RPCs are central to New Hampshire's coordinated planning approach. The statutes governing state, regional and local planning requirements were amended in 2002 to establish a smart growth based policy framework that integrates all three governance levels. Within this framework local master plans are reviewed for consistency with the RPC regional plans, which in turn are reviewed for consistency with the state development plan.

In addition to the regulatory framework, there have been recent broad-based, extensive statewide efforts to develop sustainability principles and recommendations including through the Citizen Advisory Committee's work on the NH DOT Long Range Transportation Plan, the NH OEP Draft State Development Plan as well as the NHDES-lead NH Climate Action Plan.



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603-424-2240
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Merrimack, 03054-4045



North Country Council
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Bethlehem, 03574-5800



Rockingham PC
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Southern NH RPC
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Manchester, 03102-3546



Southwest RPC
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20 Central Square
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Strafford RPC
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603-448-1680
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Using these efforts and framework as a basis, the RPCs will lead the NH Sustainable Communities Initiative (NH SCI) which will bring communities and other local stakeholders, together with the RPCs and their state agency partners -- Transportation, Energy and Planning, Environment, Housing and Economic Development -- in a collaboration that mirrors the model envisioned in the Sustainable Communities Initiative itself.

This process will enhance the capacity of the RPCs to implement and fulfill the potential of New Hampshire's integrated planning statutes and create coordinated, sustainable regional plans for each of the nine regions that:

- Harmonize long term planning for the location, density, scale and type of development with public investment decisions for transportation and other infrastructure
- Proactively incorporate risks from natural hazards including climate change, as well as adaptation responses, into long range planning
- Establish a consistent planning and policy framework connecting local master plans, regional plans and State plans
- Capitalize on and incorporate shared principles and policies included in the NHDOT Long Range Transportation Plan (CAC), the Draft State Development Plan and the Climate Action Plan.
- Address the needs of local communities, integrate sustainability principles, and are coordinated into an overall statewide strategy
- Use an extensive, coordinated and consistent public involvement process based on advisory stakeholder committees
- Identify and prioritize place-based implementation projects
- Meet appropriate regional planning requirements of HUD, DOT and EPA programs

NH SCI Next Steps

Prior to the release of the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) in June, the RPC Directors will meet with potential partners to discuss the NH SCI concept and continue to refine and develop the NH SCI proposal.

For more information contact:

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