

Tamworth

Economic Development Committee

Minutes from the November 4, 2010 meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Present at the meeting: Members : Pat Farley, Sheldon Perry, Karen McNiff, Dennis Quinn, Bob Abraham. Alternates: Kristin McIntire, Michelle Cleveland.

Kristin and Michelle were appointed as replacement board members for Chris Franchi and Marletta Marduskuie.

New Business

A motion for approval of the October minutes was seconded and passed.

Committee Reports

Mount Washington Valley Economic Development report: Bob Abraham

Bob reported that the real estate at the Tech. Center was still for sale and that the MWVED offices would most likely continue to be there, but leased from a purchaser. He also mentioned that the group provides financial aid to area businesses.

Broadband report: Dennis Quinn:

Dennis announced that the tower on Bunker Hill was up and functioning and that work on the Page Hill is underway. There are 3-4 Beta testing customers in the Wonalancet area and 3 more receiving service from the Bunker Hill tower. With the completion of the Page Hill Tower, he will be testing with a total of 25 Beta customers located in diverse geographical areas. This testing will continue for several months so as to guarantee that all is working as expected. Thus far all is going admirably. Future broadband quantities and costs are being explored with NH/VT.

Tamworth Brochure, Kristin McIntire:

Kristin provided a completed brochure prototype as well as separate sample rack cards for shopping, sleeping and dining in Tamworth. Various printing costs were discussed as well as quantities that were needed. For 250 of each, the estimate was \$460....more than the budget can bear....further estimates will be sought. The materials will be placed at the visitor information center in Ossipee as well as in various businesses around town that cater to the public. She is also working on a separate piece that

will include all businesses in town by category, along with a map...for the purpose of promoting all business in town and providing ease in reaching whichever service or business a resident may wish to find. These cards will be distributed differently as they are meant particularly to encourage local business among those in and around our town.

- Brownfields plan: Karen and Pat

A description of this program managed in NH by Lakes Region Planning was provided. Karen and Pat heard the details when they attended the CEDS meeting in Laconia last week. Properties that qualify for assessment should be brought to the attention of LRPC by individuals, companies, non-profits, towns, etc. If qualified, guidance and financial assistance is available to make a site useful once again. These sites could be abandoned or foreclosed properties whose present state deter a purchaser's interest. There is no minimum size required and special attention should be brought to towns who have acquired property because of tax liens. A fully descriptive meeting will be held in Franklin, NH on Nov. 22.

- Grants/Financial Sources: Michelle

Michelle has compiled a notebook of potential financial resources not only for entrepreneurs but also for existing or relocating companies. Her comments follow:

At today's meeting, I am submitting a notebook of my secondary research efforts on identifying resources for TEDC in their efforts to support the retention and expansion of Tamworth's existing businesses, stimulate micro enterprise development, and attract new businesses fitting the criteria set forth by the Tamworth Master Plan.

The resource notebook is organized into the following sections: Tamworth, Carroll County, Lakes Region, New Hampshire, US offices of Rural Development and Farm Services. These resources are primarily related to public sector resources. There is a reference section in the notebook on New England foundations.

Based on my conversations with the organizations identified in the resource notebook, I recommend that TEDC draft up to three economic development scenarios to share with one or two of the referenced entities. Representatives from these organizations would review, engage their peers and visit Tamworth to discuss the most appropriate set of technical and financial resources available for the proposed scenarios.

After many compliments to Michelle, a discussion followed with thoughts of several enterprises that are missing in Tamworth, any or all of which would be an asset to our region. Some include 1. Hydroponic farming, 2. Biomass pellet manufacturing, 3. Architectural Millwork production and 4. Plywood and Lumber

distribution. The last three of these are naturals since they rely on a plentiful natural resource. Other ventures that could benefit are two that are already being worked on: Tamworth Artisans and Chocorua Food Cooperative.

Old/New Business

- Rocket Pitch... for the potential regional connection of entrepreneurs and investors. Babson College held their annual Rocket Pitch, attended by Karen and Pat. A brief discussion on this topic centered on the investor as either philanthropic or as venture capital in nature. A long range goal will be to work with other Economic Development groups and the LRPC or CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy... a sub-committee of LRPC) to host our own regional Rocket Pitch. Finding investors will be a key element to resolve.

Action points

- Place a master list of Tamworth businesses on the Exchange with the request that people notify us of any we have missed.
- Arrange for mapping of these once we have a complete list.
- Post an 'Idea of the Month' on the Exchange from the TEDC suggesting a possible business enterprise someone might wish to explore.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. There will be no regular meeting in December.