

## Tamworth

### Economic Development Committee

#### Minutes from the July 2, 2009 meeting

The meeting was called to order shortly after 7 PM.

Committee members present: Pat Farley, Karen McNiff, Marletta Maduskuie, Chris Franchi, Michelle Cleveland, Willie Farnum. Alternates present: Becca Boyden, Sheldon Perry. From the public present: Cimbria Badenhause.

The minutes from the June 4, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Pat Farley asked for a volunteer to become the recording secretary for the committee. Sheldon Perry accepted the position.

Reports from the following committees were given:

#### **Broadband Committee, led by Karen**

There was an extensive discussion about the various models for providing broadband internet access to Tamworth.

Question: Is the committee trying to provide internet access for all persons in Tamworth or primarily for businesses? The consensus of the group was that the goal is to provide access for all persons.

There was a discussion regarding Cyberpine, in Sandwich, as a model for Tamworth. Karen met with Gunnar Berg, who spends a great deal of his time setting up and maintaining the Cyberpine system. "It is a work of love" Karen noted and expressed her concern that we would need to find a similarly committed person for this model to work in Tamworth. She noted that Cyberpine costs \$45 per person/month and that they were near capacity.

The group suggested that this model would create local jobs. The pattern of growth for such a system was discussed and the consensus of the group was that we should start in the middle (high density areas) and expand outward to pick up the margins. Progress would be realized in stages and that no hard time frame can be determined at this time.

The role of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) in the promotion of broadband internet access was discussed. Michelle suggested that it should be to minimize barriers and to present options. Three options were discussed:

A local co-operative option- Cyberpine is a good example.

A commercial option- Fair Point Communications and Verizon were discussed as possible carriers.

Use of public agencies and public funding- North Country Investment Group (NCIG) was introduced as an organization committed to bringing internet access to the entire state, including rural communities.

Regarding the cost for these options, Cimbria thought it to be important to keep them as affordable as possible.

The group discussed the development of a Request for Proposal (RFP). Karen and Michelle would work further in this regard to develop a package, with specifications. This document would be used in development of our options.

### **Brochure Committee, led by Chris Franchi.**

Chris would like to access and review existing town brochures for ideas. The committee would select those ideas which would best be incorporated into a brochure for Tamworth.

The time span for a town brochure would be fairly long, as this document would be updated only periodically. The brochure should augment the town's website. Michelle offered her daughter's map of Tamworth and its villages as an aid.

Marletta suggested that we may need two brochures, one targeted toward businesses, the other targeted to the tourists.

The need to develop a website for the businesses in town was discussed. This site would have a link in the Town's website. Marletta and Cimbria presented their existing site, New Hampshire Markets, as an example ([www.nhmarkets.shutterfly.com](http://www.nhmarkets.shutterfly.com)). Networking local services would likely create the need for other jobs.

### **Research**

Research would be considered a support function to the other committees.

### **Mapping existing Companies, led by Becca Boyden**

Becca presented David Little's color coded map of the types of businesses in town. She thought that this map may be too specific, but the group agreed that it was important for the map to be as specific as possible. Any business interested in moving to Tamworth would want to know which type of businesses existed in town.

Becca will use various databases, such as non-profit organizations, to generate information.

Becca also handed out hard copies of Chapter 7, Economic Development, of the Tamworth Master Plan.

### **Tourism**

There was a brief discussion regarding the goal of the EDC to bring business into Tamworth, to bring tourists into Tamworth and to support the existing businesses in Tamworth.

### **New Business:**

It was agreed that the minutes, as written by Sheldon, would be presented to the committee president, Pat Farley, for review. She would revise the minutes, if necessary, and distribute them to the committee members and to the town.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting Adjourned.