

Tamworth

Economic Development Committee

Minutes from the August 6, 2009 meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM.

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

The minutes from the July 2, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Reassignment of committee member and alternate:

Pat Farley suggested that Sheldon Perry, as recording secretary, become a full committee member. In turn, Karen McNiff, who will be busy with other projects, will replace Sheldon as an alternate on the committee. Michelle made a motion, as such, which was seconded. A vote for approval was unanimous.

Pat also suggested that Michelle Cleveland be nominated as Vice President of the committee. This motion was seconded and a vote for approval was unanimous.

Broadband Committee report, led by Michelle Cleveland:

Michelle handed out a summary and email log of recent events in regards to the application for broadband coverage with the State of NH for stimulus dollars. There were a lot of positive developments in this regard. (See handout.) A summary of Michelle's handout follows:

- Governor Lynch has appointed a Broadband Director for the state.
- The state has applied to Washington for stimulus monies for this purpose.
- Tom Joyce of NCIC is heading the north region of NH in the effort to receive stimulus money. Data for recording Tamworth's existing coverage was needed ASAP. David Little aided Michelle in gathering and mapping this data which was submitted to Tom Joyce.
- Tom Leary, Chief of Communications for NH's Division of Forest and Lands is involved in the NOFA (Notice of Funds Availability) process for broadband and will work with Tom Joyce. Tamworth is included in the application process.
- The State of NH invited Fair Point Communications to partner with the NCIC application. The application will meet the federal deadline, which is at the end of this month.
- There will be an ongoing need to contact our state legislature to encourage this process. EDC members should work as advocates for the town.

Further discussions revealed that there will be a firm answer regarding the application sometime in November. The physical work will be performed in May of 2010. For the consumer, the cost of the equipment and the monthly fees are expected to be both reasonable and competitive.

Karen McNiff will hold the files until Michelle returns from a trip. Pat Farley will give Sheldon a copy of the map which shows Tamworth's existing broadband coverage.

Finally, Michelle noted that the state has a clear recruitment and retention policy plan for young professionals.

Tourism

Brenda Taylor, of the committee made up of representatives from Remick Museum and the Tamworth Inn, was unable to attend our meeting. However, David Little updated the committee concerning a meeting with himself, Brenda Taylor and Bob Cotrell regarding the development of a map of the trails in Tamworth. David developed a nonspecific trail map and showed it to the committee. The goal would be to publicize existing trails in a responsible way, with particular attention to obtain permission from all the relevant parties as well as to develop connector trails to all the larger trail areas. Effective project management needs to be employed to have our skilled people do this work.

Stay tuned regarding an August 13th meeting with Brenda Taylor.

Brochure, led by Chris Franchi.

Chris suggested that any paper brochure be subsequent to the development of a website. We need to have a meeting to discuss the structure of the website and to develop a concrete plan, which should include a list of Tamworth's businesses. The town's website should include a link to this website.

Chris agreed to organize a meeting for this purpose.

Mapping existing businesses.

Becca Boyden is working to further this process.

New business.

There was a discussion regarding the Land Use meeting the evening before. Further meetings on this topic will be at the Town House, 7 PM, on August 17th and 29th.

There was a discussion on how to provide services to small businesses. Information about grants and resources need to be available. Willie offered information about existing town services which are an aid in this regard. David Little suggested the development of a user's guide.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 3rd, 7 PM, at the Chocorua Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.