

Minutes from the Economic Development Meeting 4/24/14

Draft

Present: Robyn Payson, Alan Urquhart Chairman, Steve Venezia, Herm Wiegelman, Laurel Brown, Russ Galpin, Doug Hatfield and Jane Williams.

Excused: Laura Buono

Guests: Mike Tardiff, Sharon Sweeny

Meeting was call to order at 9:05 am by Chairman Alan Urquhart.

1. Minutes from the March meeting were approved by Doug Hatfield and Second by Herm Weigleman.

2. Central NH Regional Planning Commission Update: Robyn Payson stated in the initial steps of the parking garage/ green space feasibility, she walked the center with an engineer (Higher Design). It was concluded that the site on the east side of 149 and Henniker Street would need extensive investment without a significant yield of parking space with steep slope being one of the determining factors. The White House (paintball) was a more viable site because of site size and proximity to existing parking lots. Robyn said this was good news because we could eliminate the corner of Bridge and Depot Streets from the conversation and focus on the viable options.

3. Mike Tardiff, spoke about gathering base data of parking lot occupation at different points of the day and night to better understand the utilization of parking lots over the course of a four day period, Thursday- Sunday. Doug Hatfield commented that the base data could be inaccurate without proper signage, location and placement of signs. Mike Tardiff said before any changes are made, the idea will be to identify how the lots are being used. To observe how each change effects lot utilization. The base line numbers can demonstrate how small actions can lead to success.

The first course of action will be improving signage. Herm Weigleman and Alan Urquhart volunteered to approach Hillsborough Pride to address possible funding. Mike Tardiff to review the location and placement of the signs. Mike Tardiff for logistics/ Request Pride to assist in the funding of the signs. At the next meeting the cost for signs for the downtown revitalization project will be discussed.

Steve Venetia pointed out to that the horizontal parking coming with the new water line will also affect base data.

4. Kona Ice – Business owner Sharon Sweeny – gave a presentation to the EDC of her successful business that is in high demand by many New Hampshire towns for their youth sporting and town events. Sharon Sweeny requested direction as where to turn. She was denied entrance to all Parks by Mr. Bailey of Parks and Recreation. She maintained that the Hillsborough Youth could

benefit from their donations of 25% of their profits back. She stated she was not interested in “making waves” and does not want to cause upset in the town. Steve Venezia made a motion to the Select board for the recommendation to support Kona Ice – Jane Williams seconded the motion. Russ Galpin abstained. Following discussion it was decided that a letter to the Board of Selectmen might seem a bit strong and we didn’t want to insult the volunteers that had put many years of work in to the recreational programs that the children of Hillsborough enjoy. Following discussion Chairman Urquhart agreed to approach Town Administrator like Laura Buono to at her next Department head meeting the fact that it is important not to shut down businesses seeking permission to come to town, but to refer them to either the EDC , Robyn Payson, Laura Buono or to the Selectpersons. There is a need of a policy for proper channels to follow for all new businesses or information for businesses. This has to be very clear in light of several past incidences and the latest with Kona Ice. We want a clear message we are open and welcoming new business to town. Those that do not agree shall contact the above listed.

5. CEDS UPDATE: Thank you to Steve Venezia, Laura Buono, Robyn Payson and Ginks Leiby and Mike Tardiff. Within less than two weeks they pulled together six projects for Hillsborough. The most of any of the towns involved. Of a total of seventy-two million requested, twenty-six million came from Hillsborough. These will be matching funds. Our team did fantastic and was the best prepared.

The Six Projects: Sidewalks, Downtown Revitalization, Area Community Center with the Town Administration , Woods Woolen Mill Brownfield’s Cleanup Project and a Portable Technical Mobile for area educational opportunities.

6. It was requested by the Chairman advertisement for volunteers to write grants or pay if a grant is approved by Robin Payson. These adds will be submitted to both local newspapers, cost free.

7. Website: Request for proposals has been sent out and we are waiting to receive them. All is moving forward as planned.

8. Due to time several items were not discussed and will be placed on the May 22, 2014 Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 am motion made by Jane Williams. Second made by Doug Hatfield.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Williams, Secretary