

Town of Milton
424 White Mtn Highway
Milton NH, 03851



Economic Development
PO Box 310
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Meeting Minutes

Jan 2, 2020

Committee Members Present

- Dennis Woods, Humphrey Williams, Erin Hutchings, Peg Hurd,, Bruce Woodruff, Kathy Russ
Jenn Marsh (sworn in)

Committee Members not in attendance

- Bob Bourdeau, Phil Bean, Les Elder (resigned), Chris Penta(resigned)

Others Present

- Sandi Woods (Recorder), Katherine Ayers(Public)

Opening

- Meeting came to order at 6:00. Sandi Woods – Minutes recorder

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

- November 7th minutes unanimously approved as written.

Old Business

- Active project reviews
 - Business signs on Rt 16 and 125 – Chris
 - With Chris's resignation, this project is looking for a new lead. Jenn Marsh suggested that perhaps we could invite the private contractors that DOT is now using, to come to a future meeting to discuss our need for signage at exits 17 and 18, along with Rt. 125.
 - Joint Committee/Board Forum – Ernie/Bruce
 - This forum would bring many of the town boards and committees together to discuss and agree on a plan for future economic development. The plan was to first identify a facilitator to coordinate the meeting. Bruce indicated that one facilitator had been contacted, but their quote was very expensive and not worth pursuing. Jenn Marsh suggested contacting NH Listens, to see if they would provide the service. Bruce will followup with NH Listens and report back.
 - Town wide survey – Bruce
 - Bruce provided the team with a set of survey questions he's recommending to submit to the people of Milton, to gather their preferences and opinions with regard to economic development. A lengthy discussion about syntax and content provided Bruce with additions and suggestions for a next draft, which will be distributed to the team when completed. Further discussions will continue at our next meeting.

- Milton Leather board – Peg
 - The former Milton Leather board building located on Mill St., was submitted as a project, and Peg provided new information. Peg contacted the EPA and was told that despite the rumors of contamination, that the last inspections back in 1986, failed to identify any evidence of any type of contamination. More investigation will be conducted. The building is not in current use, and although contrary to public opinion, is not delinquent in back taxes, and is not currently for sale.
- Lakeside – Dennis
 - Although it was hoped that interested parties, negotiating with the current owners, could arrive at an agreement and move forward with a purchase, it sounds like those talks stalled at an impasse over sale price. The buyer claimed that the building had been stripped of valuable equipment, and would be very expensive to replace, making the sale price too high to continue.
- Three Corners Store (Townhouse Rd) - Dennis
 - The new owner of the former Three Corner Store at the corner of Townhouse Rd and St. James Ave, has decided not to pursue the plan for re-opening the store with an added breakfast/lunch area. Apparently, there were too many roadblocks to success, along with limited space, to be doable. The storefront is now available for rent.
- International Property Management Code (IPMC) – Dennis/Bruce
 - Milton's adoption of a new set of codes to be used by Code Enforcement, has been recognized as a project sponsored by MEDC. Bruce and Erin recalled that it was suggested that the town planner look into IPMC, in the recent past. Our plan is to investigate the value of Milton engaging some or all of this code, and if deemed valuable, preparing a warrant for 2021 town meeting.

New business

- **MEDC welcomed it's newest member. Jenn Marsh was sworn in as an alternate. Welcome Jenn! It's awesome to have you on the team!**
- Select and prioritize projects for 2020
 - This item was changed to an inter-meeting activity, and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Closing Public Comment

Closing Member Comment

Adjournment

- A motion for adjournment was made, and seconded. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40.