

Milton Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes
Sept. 6, 2016

Opening

The regular meeting of the Milton Economic Development Committee was called to order at 5:30pm on Sept. 6, 2016 in the Milton Town Hall by Justin Avery.

Committee Members Present

Justin Avery, Bob Bourdeau, Cubbi Lirette, Nick Marique, Selectman Mike Beaulieu

Open Items

Approval of Minutes from Aug. 2nd 2016 Meeting:

Mr. Avery tabled the approval of Aug. 2nd's minutes until the October 2016 meeting, as the minutes had not been distributed to the committee's other members for review prior to the September meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:

Mr. Avery was notified by Ms. Dana Smith that she was still waiting for approved minutes from the Milton EDC for the following meeting dates: 10-6-15, 12-1-15, 2-2-16, 5-3-16, and 6-7-16. The committee members felt as though this issue had been cleaned up already however they will review at next month's meeting to ensure all outstanding minutes have been completed and approved.

Old Business

Tax Increment Incentives:

Mr. Avery asked Mr. Beaulieu if he could provide some background on an idea he discussed briefly at August's EDC meeting regarding tax increment incentives for businesses who may be interested in relocating to Milton. Mr. Beaulieu stated that the idea was still in its infancy however the idea is a graduated assessment percentage for the first couple of years for any new business that makes an investment (real estate) in the town. Mr. Avery inquired if such an initiative would have to be approved by the State of NH, similar to RSA 162-K. A general discussion on such initiatives ensued and the committee agreed to continue discussions on the subject at future meetings.

ER Zones:

Furthering the discussion of incentive programs, Mr. Avery opened discussion on the Economic Revitalization Zone (ER Zone) within the town and discussed the importance of ensuring the existing businesses in town are incentivized to remain in town. The committee discussed the one existing ER Zone as well as the possibility of establishing others to encourage the existing businesses to further expand their operations. Mr. Avery asked if the committee had ever thought about establishing the industrial park as a zone and/or any vacant land available for commercial development. Mr. Marique stated that the idea had been mildly discussed previously but didn't see why it couldn't be reviewed again as the idea of establishing additional zones

incentivizes future commercial growth for both new and existing businesses, and the cost to establish a zone is essentially zero.

Business Visitation Program:

Mr. Avery inquired about developing a business visitation program so that the committee can reach out and talk to Milton's local business owner's face to face in order to hear any comments or concerns they may have regarding the business environment in Milton as well as notify them of programs like the ER Zone program. Mr. Bourdeau stated that the committee had discussed such a program before with UNH's Cooperative Extension several years back and that the cost for their assistance in developing a program would be a couple thousand dollars. Mr. Beaulieu stated that the committee was looking to pursue such an initiative but the default budget set in and the program was tabled as a potential future initiative. Mr. Avery suggested that before touching base with UNH again for their assistance at that cost, perhaps the committee can generate a program on their own from scratch through donated time of the committee. Mr. Avery stated that he'd begin work on a business visitation program and looked forward to having the committee's input on its formation.

New Business

Website: www.choosenh.com

Mr. Avery informed the committee of a new website designed by the State of NH's Dept. of Resources and Economic Development for commercial real estate brokers. The site allows brokers with commercial properties in NH to list them on a central location for exposure to corporate site selectors around the world. Mr. Avery suggested we notify any commercial real estate brokers with properties for sale in Milton about the tool. Ms. Lirette stated that she wasn't sure if there were any commercial brokers based in Milton however she'd notify her real estate contacts.

Letter to Chuck Schmidt, NH DOT vice Chair of Utilities:

Mr. Bourdeau presented a draft letter he constructed on behalf of the committee addressed to Mr. Chuck Schmidt, Vice Chair of Utilities for NH DOT in support of the request made by Gold River LLC to utilize the right of way along Rte. 125 (former Ray's Marina property) for parking. Mr. Avery mad a motion to present the letter to the Milton Selectmen for acceptance, Ms. Lirette seconded, all in favor. Motion passed. The letter will be presented to the selectmen at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm by Justin Avery. The next general meeting will be at 5:30 pm on October 4, 2016, in the Milton Town Hall.

Minutes submitted by: Justin Avery