

**Milton Economic Development Committee
Milton Town Office
Monday, September 15, 2014
3:30 PM**

Members in attendance: Robbie Parsons, Leo Lessard and Bob Bordeau. Also in attendance Kimberly Ladisheff Land Use Clerk.

Public in attendance: Town Planner Gerald Coogan, Denise Roy Palmer, Larry Brown, Candace Cole-McCrea, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Les Elder, Wayne Sylvester, Bob Garnett, Eric Knapp, Dennis Wing, Nancy Wing, Joel Kost, Peg Hurd, Betsy Baker, Janice Long, Tim Long and John Lygren.

Robbie called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

Introductions

The Board introduced themselves and Town Planner, Jerry Coogan stated they had a guest and introduced Denise Roy-Palmer from the WEDCO Organization.

Public Comment

None

Updates

- Ray's Marina site – moving forward. The applicants came before the Planning Board for a conceptual plan and everything went well. The next step is doing the surveying and engineering. Jerry feels confident it will go forward. The preliminary plan shown to the Planning Board was to use existing building and tear down storage units. It will be a nice looking facility, like a mini plaza. Nothing happening on the east side at this time.
- ReEnergy – the BOS will hold an informational meeting with DES on Sept. 30th. This meeting is just to answer people's questions. Would like representation from every Board to be there but Robbie stated it would be good for residents to come also.
- Exit 17 sewer feasibility study – submitted a proposal to PSNH/NU and the Federal Savings Bank for assistance regarding the engineering services to investigate the feasibility of extending sewer service to the Exit 17 area. PSNH/NU did not approve the request. Jerry stated he will talk with the Sewer Superintendent and look at what funds are available on a local level. Bob asked if it was feasible to talk to someone from a company such as SUR. They are familiar with this and they could possibly get them to walk the old railroad bed. A ballpark figure is better than nothing. Bob has a few contacts he will look into and Jerry will follow up.
- CIP – Department heads have gotten together and started working on this. They all seem to be willing to do what the town needs. There are a few legal issues that need to be worked out. Larry Brown stated when the first warrant was put together it did not satisfy the obligations of RSA 674.5. Definitely some positive steps moving forward. Jerry stated the goal was to have some kind of draft by late fall knowing we still have to get the official vote at Town Meeting in March but that is the direction the department heads want to take.

Denise Roy Palmer of WEDCO

She was asked to provide some observations and bring some samples of potential economic development tools. Denise stated there is a good variety of things going on. One of the easiest is doing an Economic Revitalization Zone. Downtown core would be a good area. Very easy process and with the ERZ Business Tax Credit Program, businesses may be eligible for tax credits. This is used often in rural communities. The Town would have to designate an area and submit an application.

Robbie said this was a thought previously but didn't have anyone that showed any interest and found the record keeping versus the benefits weren't worth it so they chose not to pursue it. Jerry asked if they should revisit this with the BOS.

Business Visitation program – Index Packaging

Jerry said things are improving but he is still working with existing businesses. He said it's a good idea to go out and see what their issues or concerns are. Index Packaging has grown over the years and they have indicated they would like to expand maybe within a year or so. They have bought a building in Farmington for warehousing but would like to keep their manufacturing here in Milton.

Denise then explained about the UNH cooperative extension developing a business retention and expansion program where the community works in unison with UNH throughout the process. It can be as big or small as you like if you have a specific business sector that you want to focus on.

Marketing efforts for 2015

Jerry stated Exit 18 is in play right now as the town has an active group who is interested in property up there. Exit 17 called for more mixed use type of activities but hasn't gotten a lot of interest due to there not being any water and sewer. Jerry tries to stay in touch with commercial and industrial realtors but nothing of note has come up.

There was a brief discussion on the curb cuts at Exit 17 and there being a 5 year window once we get the curb cuts. Leo said there was a discussion at one point to have the town pursue it and begin the process. Bob B. said he would like to see curb cut now. Leo stated it would make land much more valuable.

Other

Resident Eric Knapp regarding Exit 18 being in play right now. He stated he would be upset if there was an agreement already with ReEnergy. He also saw the recommended development plans on the website including the one for that property. He thinks it's wonderful but asked why we keep marketing it for companies that want to use it for purposes it is not zoned for. Bob stated those are developers who approach the Town. He said we do not do the marketing, these companies come to the town and we work with them.

Resident Eric Knapp wanted to let everyone know there will be a brainstorming workshop on September 25th at Tumbledown Farms to innovate ideas how to bring tourism and business to the area. He wanted people to be aware of it and feels it would be beneficial to attend.

9.15.14 EDC

Bob B. asked where they want to go from here and do they want to do anything with the business visitation. He stated a prime example is Logitech, they are growing and we should see what their plans are and maybe meet their needs.

Jerry stated they will follow up on SUR Construction for sewer, explore the ERZ, visit Logitech and explore the Business Visitation with UNH.

The committee decided they will hold their next meeting on November 10th at 3:30pm.

Bob B. motioned to adjourn at 4:15pm. Motion seconded by Leo. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Ladisheff
Land Use Clerk