

MEDC Meeting Minutes

Milton Economic Development Committee (MEDC) meeting
Milton Town Office
424 White Mountain Highway, NH Route 125, Milton, NH

Tuesday June 2, 2015 at 5:00 PM

Those present: MEDC members - Bob Bourdeau, Cubbi Lirette, Eric Knapp, Chair, Nick Marique and Mike Beaulieu, Selectman.

Staff - Gerald Coogan,

Guests – Andre Garron, Economic Development Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension and Denise-Roy Palmer, WEDCO

1. General items

Introductions: all present introduced themselves.

Minutes of May 5, 2015: Approved.

2. Business Visitation Program

Meeting with Andre Garron, AICP, UNH Cooperative Extension Program, Durham, NH: Chair Knapp welcomed Mr. Garron to Milton. G. Coogan mentioned he knew Mr. Garron for many and that Mr. Garron was the Town Planner in Goffstown, NH and the Community Development Director for the Town of Londonderry, NH and now has been with UNH Cooperative Extension for almost three years. He is a UNH graduate. Mr. Garron discussed in the detail UNH CE Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) Program. Local existing businesses created almost 80% of all new jobs in the United States. Experts agree that a focus on the retention and expansion of existing businesses creates the “biggest bang for the buck.” Mr. Garron related a story of a Maine business that relocated to the Pease International Tradeport and that local and state officials in Maine never contacted the company in over 30 years. The BRE program is a three step process:

1. **Research** – inform community, organize leadership team, finalize survey instrument, train visitors and visit businesses;
2. **Prioritize** – review “warning” signs, respond to individual concerns, prepare research report, design priority projects;
3. **Implement** – focus on three to five items. work on project teams, sustain leadership team, update on projects, evaluate results, prepare report

Responsibilities of the Leadership Team include: coordination, communications, visitation coordination, milestone coordination and business resources coordination. The cost to participate in the BRE program is \$2,500 and space is available in the fall 2015 and spring 2016.

MEDC members discussed an informal effort initially with later participation in the formal BRE program and seeking an appropriation for this activity and others for 2016. D. Roy-Palmer and A. Garron discussed the BRE program in Wolfeboro, which is off to a good start. Mr. Garron provided the MEDC with a copy of his powerpoint presentation. MEDC will consider the program and discuss further at the July meeting.

MEDC thanked Mr. Garron for his instructive presentation.

Review business list: B. Bourdeau and N. Marique provided an updated list of existing businesses in Milton.

Other: MEDC members discussed a budget, matching grants, “Made in Milton” a facebook page on local businesses and recruitment of volunteers.

3. Meeting with Charles (Chuck) Therriault

Mr. Therriault distributed a map showing his land and the Town owned parcel necessary for access to NH Route 75. He described plans to construct a 150,000 + SF building to manufacture modular units for residential and nonresidential uses. He contacted Northcoast RR relative to shipping in materials. The parcel in question is Tax Map 45, Lot 70, which the Town took for taxes. MEDC expressed general support of the sale or lease of the parcel subject to the condition that Mr. Therriault construct the type of uses that he described. He needs access rights over TM 45-70 to NH Route 75. Selectman Beaulieu stated that transfer of the parcel will be an upcoming BOS agenda item and the BOS will contact with Mr. Therriault after the meeting.

4. Other items

- Ray's Marina site – construction at the Dunkin Donuts site is underway. Discussion of potential activity on the water / railroad side.
- Moose Mountain Alliance –The group has developed the theme of the “Sweet 16” corridor and will meet on Thursday June 25th at 6:00 PM at the NH Farm Museum, NH Route 125, Milton. MEDC members will attend, but will not have an officials meeting.
- Next meeting: Tuesday July 7th at 5:00 PM at the Milton Town office.
- Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 PM