

Milton Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

Opening

The regular meeting of the Milton Economic Development Committee was called to order at 5:00 pm on April 18, 2017 in the Milton Town Hall by Justin Avery.

Committee Members Present

Justin Avery, Bob Bourdeau, Cubbi Lirette and J. Michael Beaulieu

Others Present

Denise Roy-Palmer- Executive Director of WEDCO, Bruce Woodruff- Town Planner, and Colin Lentz- Regional Transportation Planner for SRPC.

Presentation

Strafford Regional Planning Commission presenting on the NHDOT 2018-2019 Ten Year Plan: Colin Lentz from SRPC came before the committee to discuss the upcoming NHDOT Ten Year Plan project and was seeking input from the MEDC on what projects should be placed on the priority list for the Town of Milton. According to Mr. Lentz, the Ten Year Plan is reviewed and updated every 2 years to ensure the most up to date priorities are listed and those that are no longer considered a priority and/or those that have been completed are removed. Along with Mr. Lentz, the committee members reviewed the existing list from the previous review. Mr. Woodruff provided some background information on several of the projects listed but reminded the committee that the timeline to properly evaluate new projects to add and existing projects to continue to support was too short as the timeline for submission was April 30th. Mr. Bourdeau inquired on the number of projects related to rail and rail bed maintenance. Mr. Lentz was not aware of how those projects became a priority in the past and stated that they were selected by Milton's representative for the Ten Year Plan at a previous review. Mr. Bourdeau stated that from his perspective, if the town were to fix even one rail bed section, all rail bed sections along the route, including those outside of Milton would have to also be fixed and therefore it seemed like there were a lot more parties that needed to participate in that project. Ms. Lirette and Mr. Avery expressed concern for throwing support behind any of the projects currently listed as it seemed as though the timeframe was too short. Mr. Lentz reminded the committee that by supporting a project the town was not committed to completing it rather just keeping it on a list for the NHDOT to consider in their long term planning. Even if the State selects one of the projects listed, approval stills needs to come from the citizens of the municipality to pursue it. Mr. Bourdeau suggested that the only project that seemed appropriate to leave on the list was one related to a park and ride off of Exit 17 on Route 16, as the Town has already committed to supporting development of that section of the Town for future economic development initiatives. Mr. Woodruff agreed with Mr. Bourdeau's assessment and suggested the committee work with the Planning Board in preparation for the next two year review to generate a lengthier list of

priority projects. Mr. Bourdeau made a motion to leave only the Exit 17 Park and Ride project on the priority list and remove all others listed. Mr. Beaulieu seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Open Items

Approval of Minutes from January 3, 2017 Meeting:

Mr. Avery stated that he had not sent out the minutes for the March MEDC meeting in advance and therefore suggested the committee table approval of the minutes until the May meeting.

Old Business

Business Visitation Program:

Mr. Boudreau reminded the committee that the budget for the MEDC was passed and that UNH Cooperative Extension should be contacted to see what assistance can be provided in developing a strong business visitation program. Mr. Avery said he would reach out to UNH to begin the process.

Exit 17:

Mr. Woodruff informed the MEDC that he has reached out to NHDOT regarding Exit 17. Mr. Bourdeau stated the committee wants to help in whatever way possible to reduce the likelihood that the project gets held up and/or that the developer decides to move on. Mr. Woodruff continues to work with NHDOT to make them aware of the Town's position.

Broadband enhancement for the Town of Milton:

Mr. Avery informed the committee that he had spoken to Carol Miller, the State's Director of Broadband about coming to speak with the MEDC. Mr. Avery stated that prior to visiting the MEDC he would have Carol reach out to Mr. Woodruff to discuss the Town's current state and future possibilities.

Old Ray's Marina Site:

Ms. Lirette inquired on the old Ray's Marina site. Mr. Bourdeau stated that as of right now any requirements made by NHDOT have to be addressed by the developer. Mr. Woodruff reminded the committee that NHDOT is looking for a response from the Town regarding sidewalks however the Town has not been approached/asked by the developer to review the concerns. Mr. Beaulieu stated that the Selectmen would have no reason to hold up the project but they have not been approached by the developer to address this item or any other items that still need to be taken care of, and therefore reaffirmed Mr. Bourdeau's position that the onus is currently on the developer.

Adjournment

Mr. Bourdeau made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Lirette seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm. The next general meeting will be at 5:30 pm on May 9, 2017, in the Milton Town Hall.

Minutes submitted by: Justin Avery