

Milton Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2017

Opening

The regular meeting of the Milton Economic Development Committee was called to order at 5:30 pm on August 1, 2017 in the Milton Town Hall by Justin Avery.

Committee Members Present

Justin Avery, Bob Bourdeau and Cubbi Lirette

Others Present

Bruce Woodruff- Town Planner, and Daniel Smiley from Smiley Publications Group.

New Business

Daniel Smiley, Smiley Publications Group

Daniel Smiley of Smiley Publications Group came before the committee to introduce himself and to ask what steps he needs to take if he were interested in putting a bid in to purchase the old Milton Fire Department Building. Mr. Woodruff informed both the committee and Mr. Smiley that bids must be passed in no later than 4 pm on August 3rd. Mr. Smiley explained to the committee that if he were to purchase the facility he would hope to operate a small distribution outpost for his publications business. According to Mr. Smiley, this operation would be low impact as only a truck or two a week would stop to drop off printed papers and then a few of his vans would stop by, load up and then leave for delivery. Mr. Bourdeau expressed to Mr. Smiley that if he did not win the bid to purchase the Fire House, that he hoped Mr. Smiley would reach back out to the committee with some square footage and location requirements that the committee could assist him in locating. Mr. Smiley expressed that repurposing a building with history is his first priority but that he would keep Mr. Bourdeau's offer in mind. Mr. Smiley provided some copies of the papers he distributes which include The Laker and Sweet16 and thanked the committee for their time.

Open Items

Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2017 & April 18, 2017 Meeting:

Mr. Avery stated that because there was not a quorum present the committee must table approval of the minutes until the September meeting.

Old Business

Business Visitation Program/UNH Cooperative Extension:

Mr. Avery explained to the group that he had been in contact with Charlie French of UNH Cooperative Extension about the committee's plan for a business visitation program and that the committee would like Charlie's team to come in and discuss what could be done in conjunction with UNH Cooperative Extension. Currently Mr. French's team is a little short-staffed so he had

informed Mr. Avery that a visit sometime in the fall would be best. Mr. Avery will touch base with Mr. French at the end of August to inquire on his availability to meet with the committee. Mr. Bourdeau inquired as to what would happen to the committee's funds if they were not able to use them within the year due to UNH's current schedule. Mr. Woodruff advised that a request to carryover the funds could be made by the committee.

Broadband enhancement for the Town of Milton:

Mr. Avery asked those present to recap the broadband presentation Carol Miller from NH DRED provided to the planning board. Mr. Bourdeau explained that it was very informative and nice to know that the support exists. An additional takeaway was that the town can ask Metrocast for some key measurables that will assist in assessing the town's level of coverage. Mr. Woodruff further explained that what he took away from the presentation was that Mrs. Miller is a resource that will help but that it is not her responsibility to do all of the work and suggested that perhaps a broadband committee or group be formed to work with Carol. Mr. Woodruff explained that there are grant monies available however there needs to be a group to take the lead on this effort. Mr. Bourdeau explained that it would be nice to get Carol in touch with Eric Knapp as connectivity was a concern of his and directly affects his business. Perhaps Mr. Knapp could get the ball rolling and spearhead the effort by gathering additional interested parties to participate. Mr. Avery offered to email Mr. Knapp to try and connect him directly to Carol Miller.

MEDC Membership:

Mr. Avery opened the discussion about MEDC membership and the struggle the committee has experienced over the past year trying to achieve a quorum at the majority of the monthly meetings. Ms. Lirette suggested someone reach out to the selectmen to confirm who the rep was that would sit on the MEDC. Mr. Avery also inquired as to what the maximum number of committee members was for the MEDC as he would like to see that number at 7 not including the selectmen's rep. The rest of the committee was unsure what the maximum number was. Mr. Avery offered to reach out to the Selectmen's office to inquire who the rep would be for the committee and to see what the maximum number of committee members is.

Other Items/Updates:

A general discussion ensued regarding the status of various projects around town.

Adjournment

Mr. Bourdeau made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Lirette seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm. The next general meeting will be at 5:30 pm on September 5, 2017, in the Milton Town Hall.

Minutes submitted by: Justin Avery