

Meeting Minutes
Economic Development Task Force
June 16, 2015

Members present: Paul Fraser, Garlyn Manganiello, Greg Wagner, Robin-Ingalls Fitzgerald, Select Board Representative, Rick Alpers, Amy Lyn Kench and Town Administrator, Michael Capone. Absent: Scott Stephens, Woody Miller. Also present, Geoffrey Sewake, JD, MELP, Field Specialist, Community and Economic Development, UNH Cooperative Extension.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM by the Task Force Chair, Paul Fraser.

Mr. Geoffrey Sewake a Community and Economic Development Field Specialist with the UNH Cooperative Extension was present to speak in more detail with regard to Economic Sustainability in the Newfound Region. This was a follow up to a short presentation made at the economic development forum in April.

Mr. Sewake explained some of the economic opportunities that exist in our area and things we may want to consider as we move forward in our economic development. Mr. Sewake presented some data with regard to the NH Tourism economy. He also presented data with regard to the lifestyle characteristics of the Newfound area. He presented data with regard to the types of businesses in the area and examined possible ideas to enhance the business climate in the region. Among the ideas he presented were:

Capture spillover from Winnepesaukee region visitors

Capitalize on communities' historic and cultural heritage

Cater to on-lake and/or on-river experiences

Enhance businesses' web presence

Mr. Sewake also presented case studies on what other communities in the region were doing to improve their business climate.

He left contact information and offered his services for future programs.

Chairman Fraser thanked Mr. Sewake for attending.

There was a brief discussion with regard to coordinating some of the Task Force activities with the Bristol Events Committee, some of whom were present at the meeting. Les Dion explained some of what the Committee does. She provided copies of the latest events brochure. There was a discussion amongst those present as to how to get more business involved in community activities. Among the ideas discussed were holding business before and after hour events and inviting businesses to have a table or display at the Summer Concert series.

Everyone was in agreement that there were plenty of opportunities for increased cooperation for all parties involved. Barbara Greenwood suggested that we do more self-promotion as well.

There was continued discussion with regard to the brochure. Ms. Kench had some suggestions for other improvements to the brochure. The Town Administrator indicated that he was going to get some photos of other businesses in Town as well as a new picture of Central Square.

There was discussion with regard to organizing some events in support of the Lakes Region Pumpkin Festival in October.

Mrs. Manganiello reported that organizational meetings continue for the Triathlon in September.

The group discussed taking the next two months off and reconvening on September 8. Among the remaining tasks would be to prepare a report for the Select Board with recommendations for tasks going forward.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8th at 4PM in the Bristol Town Office Meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM

Respectfully submitted

Michael Capone

Paul Fraser, Chair

Rick Alpers, Select Board Representative

Robin Ingalls-Fitzgerald

Amy Lyn Kench

Garlyn Manganiello

Greg Wagner