

APPROVED MINUTES

EXETER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Business Retention & Expansion Subcommittee

JUNE 18, 2013

The Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Madeleine Hamel at 10:30 am at the Town Office in the Board of Selectmen Office. Members present were Madeleine Hamel, David Hampson, Julie Gilman, Jason Proulx, and Derek Scanlon, Town intern. Minutes of the May 30th, 2013 meeting were approved.

Business Community Outreach Project:

The Subcommittee reviewed the draft summary report to the EEDC on the status of the Business Community Outreach Project and made some revisions and suggestions for Ms. Hamel to incorporate in the final report for the next EEDC meeting.

While updating Ms. Gilman on our business meetings to date, there was a discussion about the opportunity for development on Epping Road and potential impediments including zoning, access, and setbacks. Ms. Gilman pointed out that a specific ordinance governing access and setbacks exist for Epping Road (see section 6.8). Committee members suggest that placing a TIF in the area would be beneficial to encourage development and obtain needed infrastructure improvements. Mr. Hampson pointed out that the current effort centers on downtown Exeter because people see the benefit there at this time. The Subcommittee decided we should ask the EEDC if an additional TIF District could also be set up either simultaneously or following the downtown district. Also suggested was a request to have Plan NH review Epping Road.

Mr. Proulx reported that one of the businesses he met with was interested in participating in the Business Profiles section on the business page of the Town website. We will ask the EEDC and Town Manager if this has been set up yet and perhaps check with the Town IT director, Mr. Swanson. Once the program software has become available, a press release will be needed to let the business community know about the opportunity to promote Exeter businesses.

Exeter Business & Properties Database:

Mr. Scanlon reported that he had emailed the entire latest version of the Database to the Subcommittee members. It was decided that for now he would serve as the central point for updates and changes to the database in order to keep input uniform. Subcommittee members need to email any company information from our meetings to him. We also decided that companies should be able to update their own data through submission to Mr. Scanlon at the Town Office.

Next the Subcommittee discussed other software systems to track business meetings. It was noted that some programs charge annual fees, but possibly not to 501c3 organizations. Mr. Hampson will check with the NH Secretary of State's Office for a search to see if the EEDC's 501c3 status is active. Mr. Scanlon will search the Town records to determine the EEDC's exact filing name. Mr. Proulx will contact EEDC Executive Committee member Beth MacDonald to learn what information she may have about it.

With no further business or announcements, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Madeleine S. Hamel, Chair