

Town of Waterboro

Economic Development Committee

Minutes

April 9, 2014

Call to Order: 5:00 PM, by Chairman Leo Binette. Present: Don Holden and Deb Harding members; Sel. Dennis Abbott, Sel. David Woodsome, Town Administrator Gary Lamb and Town Planner Tom Ursia. Guests, Sharon Abbott, Bob Powers, 20/20 Committee Chairman and Tim Neill, 20/20 Member and Planning Board Chairman. Absent: John Wade, member.

Joint Meeting with 20/20 Committee – Guest Speaker: Chuck Morgan, Economic Development Specialist at Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission

Mr. Morgan gave an overview of the Commission and what it can offer the Town, noting that the Town does pay dues to the Commission and therefore is a member. He provided a resource handout that matches grant and financing possibilities for the following: Tax Incentives, Access to Capital, Business Counseling/Resources, Workforce Development, Market Development and Research and Development. Discussion of the various segments was held.

Mr. Morgan noted that Waterboro is a Pine Tree Development Zone community, which is a plus, as not all communities hold that distinction. The Commission is anticipating having a revolving loan fund up and running by fall of 2014. He stated that the first priority is to look at the Town's assets, such as the two major highway routes that go thru the town; and, the growing population, as well as the regional population. Gary spoke of the 40 miles of ATV and Snowmobile trails in Waterboro that gives potential opportunities for Waterboro to become a four-season area. Mr. Morgan's office has a tool that allows them to look at regional demographics that will pull a lot of information together.

Question and answer period followed Mr. Morgan's presentation, during which discussion was held in regards to the bad condition of Route 5 and how this is an ongoing economic development problem not only for Waterboro, but neighboring towns as well. Mr. Morgan suggested that Tom Reinhold from his office be invited to a meeting to discuss infrastructure, as he's been around DOT for 20 years.

Minutes: Don Holden made the motion to approval the minutes of the Feb. 26, 2014 and March 12, 2014 meetings as written. Leo seconded. Voted, passed.

Correspondence: John sent an e-mail in regards to not being able to attend tonight's meeting. Gary sent an e-mail in regards to the Southern Maine Broadband Summit, which he will be attending, inviting an EDC member to also attend.

E-mail received from Administrative Assistant in regards to the Board of Selectmen holding a budget review workshop and committee reporting on Tuesday, April 15th. at 6 PM.

Announcements: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Economic Development Chapter for the Comprehensive Plan – Task Assignments:

Bob asked who will write the introduction and pull the chapter together. He was hoping that SMPDC would do it. There needs to be a lead-in to each section. Leo responded that the Committee will go over each section and he will meet with Bob to get his direction on how it should be laid out.

The following reviews were tabled until the next meeting.

- I. Marketing & Social Media – Tom
- II. Planning & the Development Process – Tom
- III. Energy & Green Development - Leo
- IV. Land Use Planning & Progressive Zoning - Tom
- V. Regional Cooperation - Dennis
- VI. Education - Deb
- VII. Quality of Life – Deb
- VIII. Cost of Doing Business and Financial Assistance - Dennis
- IX. Type of Development – Leo
- X. Infrastructure – Don

2014-15 Budget Request Update: Tabled.

State-Business Friendly designation: Review Criteria – Tabled until next meeting.

Committee Work Plan for 2014: Tabled until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Agreed to hold a meeting on April 16, 2014 at 5 PM to work on the Economic Development Chapter for the Comprehensive Plan.

General Discussion: None.

Adjourn: Leo made the motion to adjourn at 7:04 PM. Don seconded. Voted, passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Holden
Committee Secretary

Upcoming Meetings: Tuesday, April 15th. at 6 PM Board of Selectmen Workshop

Wednesday, April 16th. at 5 PM

Agenda items for the May 14, 2014 meeting:

- Economic Development Chapter for the Comprehensive Plan Review Draft
- 2014-15 Budget Request: discuss items needing funds, ie: advertising, design of infrastructure, inventory of Waterboro and surrounding communities, website, GIS, focus groups, seminars that members could attend, memberships to other groups, etc.
- State – Business Friendly designation: review criteria
- Committee Work Plan for 2014
- General Discussion
- Invite Tom Reinhold of SMRPDC to meeting

Approved: April 16, 2014