

Town of Milton
424 White Mtn Highway
Milton NH, 03851



Economic Development
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Meeting Minutes

Sept 12, 2019

Committee Members Present

- Dennis Woods, Sandi Woods, Les Elder, Peg Hurd, Bob Bourdeau, Phil Bean, Bruce Woodruff, Humphrey Williams (new member)

Committee Members not in attendance

- Kathy Russ, Erin Hutchings, Chris Penta

Others Present

- Ernie Creveling (TA), Jennifer Marsh (EDC Rochester)

Opening

- Meeting came to order at 6:00. Sandi Woods – Minutes recorder

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

- Jennifer Marsh (EDC Rochester)

New Business

- Our newest member – Humphrey Williams
 - Dennis Woods introduced MEDC's newest member, replacing Billy Walden as a sworn-in voting member.
- Rotating Volunteers or Recording Secretary?
 - The chairman reported on the submitted proposal to hire a recording secretary, and the BOS decision to not approve, even though 2019 funding was available and a line item was added to the 2020 MEDC budget request. We will revisit the subject when BOS representatives are present.
- EDC page changes – Business Directory, Featured Business
 - Dennis Woods reported to the team, that the Milton Business Directory, created and maintained by MEDC, was now available via a active link on the Milton town website.
- Master Plan revisited – Let's decide on a direction.
 - Bruce and Les both identified Strafford County Planning Commission as a resource for developing the next revision of the Milton town Master Plan. It was suggested

that a steering committee be formed to begin the process of updated the town master plan. Bruce Woodruff will kickoff the forming of this steering committee at the next available Planning Board meeting, now thought to be 9/17. This committee should include MEDC, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and others. We discussed the need to employ professional assistance in the creation and execution of a town wide citizen survey to capture Milton's direction for our future. Ernie Creveling (TA), also suggested Andy Smith from the UNH Survey Center, as a possible source. A consolidated set of steering committee approved questions would be put before the people of Milton, and used as a basis for the development of a new and improved Milton Master Plan.

- Information sharing using Google Docs
 - The chairman informed the team that Google Docs would be the future platform for sharing and storing of information pertinent to MEDC, to simplify sharing and data availability in a timely fashion. Mr. Williams identified a town served platform of Microsoft Office as an alternative, with Mr. Creveling responding that it would be cost prohibitive.
- Joint Committee/Board Forum – Yes or No?
 - The suggestion that we should form a joint committee forum that included all of the current town boards and committees, was to bring everyone to the table to insure that we were all on the same page about Milton's future, and that we need to all be moving an agreed too direction. This initiative stemmed from the Master Plan discussions.

Old Business

- Status of existing projects
 - ERZ zones and signs
 - The signs are up!! Les Elder will provide public information identifying their location, along with maps of the actual zones.
 - UNH Business Retention Study
 - The team agreed that this study is important to complete, and that it is far overdue. The chairman asked for a volunteer to take over the project and see it to completion. Mr. Williams agreed to assume the lead for Business Retention.
 - Business signs on Rt 16
 - The status of the options for business signs at Exits 17 and 18, led to a heated interchange of opinions about how NHDOT is hindering Milton's progress on that front and other important issues. Phil Bean made a motion to invite NH representatives and Senator Bradley to a future MEDC meeting, for discussions concerning NHDOT's decisions having a negative impact on Milton progress on several recent issues that impacted business development. Phil agreed to take the lead on contacting those state officials to secure possible future meetings. Most important, would be MEDC's comprehensive agenda for that upcoming meeting.
 - LDI Solutions
 - Ernie, Les reviewed a meeting with LDI Solutions, a company looking for a possible business location here in Milton. This lead to a discussion about our inability to be proactive with information about available properties and other resources, for new

business opportunities. Bruce described the new GIS system is now available online to focus on geographic locations, and Jennifer Marsh suggested that perhaps MEDC could be the center of excellence for business opportunity information.

- Conservation/Planning
 - Les Elder was trying to invite Cynthia Wyatt to attend our meeting in September, but she was unavailable. He will try to get a commitment for our October agenda.

Closing Public Comment

- Jennifer Marsh expressed interest in becoming a future member of MEDC. It was agreed that she would be invited to attend monthly meetings until a seat became available.

Closing Member Comment

- None.

Adjournment

- Peg Hurd motioned for adjournment, Dennis Woods seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:15.