

Minutes of Economic Development Committee:

Date: 12/3/12
 Time: 4:36 pm
 Chair: Jon McCallion

Attendees/Members: Jon McCallion
Robin Jarvis
Coty Donahue

Administration: Bob Belmore
Dave Sharples
Christine Davis

Public: _____

Topic	Discussion	Conclusion
1. Approval Previous Minutes	None	
2. Welcome Coty Donahue		
3. Update From Christine Davis	See Attached!	Great Update!
4. Future agenda Items	A lot of discussion to place on what we have been working on to Benefit Coty and Christine and what are committee will focus on in the future.	Next meeting 12-14-12 8:00 am. Discuss items are Property Maintenance code; RSA 79-E and TIF District.
5. Misc.		

		Meeting Adjourned
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Committee adjourned at: 5:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan McCallion (Chair)

Monthly Update

- Bob Belmore and Christine Davis joined the Chamber in welcoming Quest Geothermal at the ribbon cutting ceremony at their facility on route 108. The company put a substantial amount of work into rehabilitating the building and improving the property.
- Christine Davis has been meeting with Malley Farm businesses to update them on the new ER Zone designation as well as help them connect with other internet providers for the business park. Comcast does not currently offer high speed internet and the businesses have been forced to utilize one or more T-1 lines to do business.
- Door to door business visits continued throughout the month and have been well-received by the local business community.
- Christine has been meeting with downtown businesses to assess their needs and solicit feedback on the upcoming infrastructure and transportation improvements.
- The Dept. hosted a well-attended Chamber Business Before Hours. Christine Davis was introduced as the City's new Economic Development Manager and Dave Sharples provided a brief overview of the downtown bond project as well as the TE grant and bridge replacement plan.
- Christine continues to work closely with contractor who is redesigning the City website. A new "Business" page is being designed and will include resources, demographics, photos of local businesses and all things related to starting or growing a business in Somersworth.
- Christine met with the new Economic Development Specialist at the UNH Cooperative Extension to see how the two can work together to grow and support the local business community. UNH will soon be able to assist communities with a Business Analyst Program, Technical Assistance and Training, Community Planning and a Retention & Recruitment Model.
- A positive PR program is being developed to enhance the image of the City and better communicate with the business community. Improved visibility will be sought through such activities as consistent communications with the local media, e-newsletters with the local businesses and regular visitations.
- Christine met with Will Arvelo the president of Great Bay Community college to learn how the college can serve the business community with their corporate training programs and new technical center that is being built in Rochester.
- Outreach to local developers and realtors continues through participation with the monthly CIBOR meetings.
- Albany International which is located in the Granite State Business Park continues to grow and Somersworth is in a great position to serve as a resource for this growing company. Over the next few years there will be a demand for warehousing and related services. They also expressed a need for dining, ATM and other service options along 108 in Somersworth.
- Christine worked with both the Chamber and Seacoast Local to promote a holiday Buy Local campaign. The City is a member of Seacoast Local and committed to becoming a local community through Resolution No. 51-10.
- The Whistle Stop Restaurant opened their doors to the public in November.

To EDC
at mtg Dec 3 BS

FYI
Mayor/Council