

**Economic Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, March 15, 2013**

**Members Present**

City Hall Executive Conference Room.

Councilors Jon McCallion, Cody Donohue, Robin Jarvis,  
City Manager Bob Belmore, Director Dave Sharples, EDM Christine Davis

**Agenda**

Chairman McCallion called the meeting to order at 8:35am

- A. Approval of the Minutes-January 25th, 2013 minutes approved
  
- B. Community Wellness Initiative-  
Councilor Jarvis stated that she is on the Board of the Wentworth Douglass Hospital Foundation which is sponsoring a health fair in May for the community. She offered to work with Christine Davis and see how Somersworth can promote and take advantage of this opportunity. Davis is looking into how the two regional hospitals work within the community and brought some information about the current entities that Frisbie Memorial Hospital works with. Councilor Donohue mentioned that GE is putting together a 5k in May and that we may want to get involved. Christine is going to follow up. Discussion was had in regards to the former “Seven Hills of Somersworth” road race and the potential to collaborate with a community group to bring that back. Councilor McCallion spoke of a strong collaborative effort in Florida that is being spearheaded by the Chamber using grant funds to promote a number of wellness initiatives.
  
- C. RSA 79-E-  
Dave Sharples received the first application on March 4<sup>th</sup> for 44 Market St. The Owner has inquired into the possibility of extended tax relief for both historic renovation and housing. Sharples is reviewing the proposal.
  
- D. T.I.F. District-  
The group decided that an application should be submitted for a planning grant through the NH Housing Authority if they are still accepting applications. Christine is looking into Plan NH and the Community Planning services offered through the UNH Cooperative Extension. Christine is going to try and attend the Plan NH Event on April 3<sup>rd</sup> in Manchester to learn more. The Committee identified a proposed perimeter that the TIF might encompass.
  
- E. Code Compliance  
City Manager, Bob Belmore, shared that the Council would like to research opportunities to strengthen the City’s ability to enforce compliance. Signage in downtown is also being researched. The City Manager also mentioned the Council’s desire to amend zoning in the downtown to encourage the establishment of businesses more fitting for a downtown.

**Other Business-**

Councilor Jarvis mentioned that the Chamber is looking to offer Educational Events that are open to the general community and cover a range of topics. Councilor Jarvis asked the committee to submit ideas for these events.

City Manager, Bob Belmore, stated the council's interest in seeing a different use for the Getty Station downtown. EDM Davis researched the possibility of the property being donated to the City, however it is currently in a long term lease. Mr. Belmore also noted that the City had an informal discussion with the owners of the former Police Station to inquire about possibly buying back the property. More discussions will be had.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45am.

Respectfully submitted

Christine Davis