

**HOOKSETT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY February 21, 2018
5:00 P.M.**

- Call to Order 5:00
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Attendance: Chair-David Scarpetti, Mark Chagnon, Alden Beauchemin, Matt Barrett, Alden Beauchemin, Marc Miville-Town Council Representative, Ivan Gault, Dan Lagueux
- Introduction of the new Town Planner Nicholas Williams:

Nicholas Williams-Hooksett Town Planner- introduced himself and talked a little bit of his background. David S asked about anything new happening in the Planning Dept.? Nicholas has started working on the Master Plan update. Marc M asked if he would be working with Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission. Nicholas- We paid 20,000 for their assistance and will take more than that to complete the update it requires.

- In Attendance-Jeff Larrabee
- Approval of Minutes : January 17, 2018
- Motion to Approve minutes of January 17, 2018 made by: Mark Chagnon , 2nd by Alden Beauchemin
- Motion carried: All
- New Business :
- Update of TIF Advisory Committee Meetings with Sewer commission on 01/08/18:

David Scarpetti updated the committee--Memorandum / non - binding agreement about the 3A sewer line extension was signed by Jeff Larrabee and the Sewer Commission. **Marc M** asked what it states. **David** It is pretty vague but it is what was requested of the investors for the Hackett Hill development. 3 proposals received by the sewer commission for the engineering review has been handed to Jim Donison the Town Engineer for his review and comments. The sewer commission has agreed to spend \$2Million toward the cost to get the sewer line run across the river at Tri Town. The engineering cost has not been determined. We had appropriated \$100,000 of which \$90,000 is left. Can we use those funds toward the engineering review? That is something I would like to look in to. **Marc M** felt it was something that the council would have to review to approve.

Matt B asked if it was with the understanding of Jeff Larrabee moving forward with the development. Where is the hotel going to go? David believes that it is all on the Richie Bro location. **Marc C** - who pays for the infrastructure done before sewer is approved will he has to pay? **Dan L** asked if the development regulations need them on a road. For water you have to have the line along the road. **Alden** it has to be on a right of way or an easement.

David informed the committee that Stephen Marro and Jared Reynolds will attend next month's meeting and talk about grants and or private funding. I would like to have Jeff L attend along with Don Winterton and staff support of Dean, Jim and Nicholas. They will explain to us how we can use funding to help pay for this.

Alden, I hope this will help us fast track this first stage and to help Jeff L move along with development in that area. This needs to happen for any hope of restaurants on that side of the river.

David asked the committee to look over an email sent about funding and have questions ready for the invitees next month.

Mark C asked if we could get something similar to the Memo of Understanding that Jeff L and the SC signed to be able to take to the local businesses and let them know that this is moving along.

Mark Chagnon introduced **Dana Stark owner of DC Tavern** to the committee: Dana opened a new business in May of 2017 at #1100 Hooksett Road. **Dan L**-asked what was your experience for starting a new business in Hooksett?

Dana It was fairly easy but there were a few things that got in the way. We had a sewer issue and the gentleman from the sewer dept. that helped us with an issue with grease traps was great! We were looking at a bill of \$13,000.00 to put in a new grease tank and Bruce did some research for us and came up with a new system (the first of its kind to be used and approved in Hooksett) and it only cost us \$3,000.00. **David S** -what was wrong with the old system that was in place? **Dana**- the place was disgusting and it took us a long time to clean it. The SC worked with us to get what we needed to make a system happen. The other thing we found was that the fire dept. was to slow with their due diligence to get the codes for our building. We talked about what it would take to have live music with a stage. It would take sprinklers so we scratched that. The next problem was the old fire chief left within days of giving us approval and then it took 3 months for the new chief to look over plans and grant his approval. I understand that was just bad timing but it did set us back. It was a situation where there was a personnel change. When we met with Building we did not need a building permit to build within the space. The items we discussed new floors and a bar, then down the road when they found we had moved a wall we then needed a permit for the moving of a wall. The CEO did do a good job and was good to work with.

A few days before opening someone from the Fire Dept came in and noticed something that they did not notice before and would not approve opening before that item was addressed. I wished that had been seen earlier and fixed, not at the last minute.

Marc M I m sorry for your bad experience and you should talk to the Dean Shankle the Town Administrator for any of these experiences and maybe he can change some of these things. Come to a Town Council meeting and share your experience.

David - Did they have a walk thru before work started? Did you have a Change of Use meeting prior? These are the type of meetings that can help move things along easier and faster.

Ivan How has it been since you opened?

Dana there have been mishaps with the alarm system. We show up sometimes before the HPD do. We had one time when they did not show up at all, and we are getting invoices for false alarms. I understand it cost a lot of money for false alarms, but they are showing up late for these expensive events. Also, I believe that I gave them my registration card for our security and they say we have not registered.

Mark C In a perfect world when should you have opened? How many month should it have taken?

Dana I thought it would take about 3 months and it took us 364 days.

Mark C Dana's situation is not new. Granite Tapis which opened around the same time took 6 months to open too.

Matt B You really should talk to your town councilor about this issue.

David maybe they should meet at the site? I have experience this too.

Dan L The system has gotten better and they have streamlined the process.

Marc M I believe there is more compassion now than there was before in these departments.

Dana Yes! That is what we would like to see, more compassion. We started our business here and we want to stay here in Hooksett and make a living! **Ivan** asked what Dana had for future plans?

Dana we want to make it work. I signed a 2 year lease. I want to make it work! **David** Thanked Dana for making the time for EDAC. We really appreciate your coming in and talking with us!

Mail a new Alarm System index card to DC's Tavern @1100 Hooksett Road.

The committee talked about how they can help new businesses get through this red tape and not have this happen again. **Dan** everything is relative and probably they had never been through the process. We don't really know what we have or are going to have at the first meeting. The new businesses owners will not know how to work the system. **David** maybe what we need is someone from this board to meet with the new businesses and help them get through the process.

Marc M I think we should follow up with these businesses.

Alden there should be a check list of things they need and then we can see how long it takes and track it so we can see where it takes so long. **Dan** added when you can't afford a consultant and they are doing all the work themselves. That is when the delays can happen. Maybe a check list will help.

- **Old Business**

Marc M maybe somewhere down the road a promotional flier or map can be generated for the Town. I use them as I am traveling. Mark provided an example of a promotional map

Dan we are trying to promote the town through the Chamber of Commerce and I think it is a great idea. I have not found much innovation in town and we need it!

Mark C said he will work on it.

David asked Kathy to put together a contact list of all committee members for the committee.

Marc M informed the group that he will be running for Town Moderator and will not be eligible for sitting on another committee. So I will not be able to continue on this committee after June. One thing I would like to accomplish before June is that I would like to see that charter that states that Town Moderator can't volunteer for any other boards, be changed. I would like to remain on this committee.

Motion to adjourn made by Mark Chagnon, 2nd by Alden Beauchemin

Meeting adjourned @ 6:15

Next meeting March 21, 2018 @ 5pm