

**Economic Development Advisory Committee**

**Date: August 17th, 2023**

**Town of Hooksett Municipal Building,**

**Time: 5:00 PM**

**Minutes**

1 **CALL TO ORDER@5:02**

2

3 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: 5:02**

4

5 **ATTENDANCE: David Scarpetti-Chair, Alden Beauchemin, Peter Stoddard, Wayne Russell**

6

7 **STAFF & OTHER DEPARTMENTS: Andre Garron-Town Administrator,**

8

9 **EXCUSED: Matt Barrett-Vice Chair, Michelle Gannon, Paul Scarpetti**

10

11 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Motion To approve minutes of 7/19 made by Peter Stoddard 2<sup>nd</sup> by***  
12 ***Wayne Russell All in favor.***

13

14 **Public impute was requested by Kathy Mclean, 64B Dale Rd., Hooksett:**

15 I wanted to speak about the minutes from this committee I had read from last year's May, June  
16 and July about the 2004 Sharrett and preserving the heritage of the village. The report was  
17 exciting and still nothing has been accomplished for 20 yrs. I spoke about the design when the  
18 gas station was proposed and could it be brick in keeping with the village. I reached out to Tony  
19 Lacasse, and he led me to the idea of creating a Heritage Neighborhood. I have a book on step  
20 by step how to create a heritage district. 1<sup>st</sup> step is going to the Planning Board and discuss  
21 what areas you want to talk about saving as a heritage neighborhood. A design study would  
22 have to been done.

23 Tony also said that in 2012 the HC looked into creating a heritage district. A \$30,000 grant had  
24 been provided. I am not sure where the \$30.000 went in creating a district. If we did this, we  
25 could give the PB this document NH Handbook for Heritage Districts. The tool kit has  
26 information about the design and how to make sure that the buildings would have specific  
27 designs. A heritage district will take time and the booklet gives you those steps. The book gives  
28 planting ideas, lamp post designs. Connecting sidewalks is a big thing and I thought placing  
29 Heritage District signs would be nice so when people enter, they know they are entering a  
30 Heritage dist. We would have this catch people's eyes and make it something they want to  
31 save. Robies is back and they would appreciate if we put flowers to make it look good. If we  
32 could do some things as we go it would be great. Maybe ARPA funds could be approved for  
33 these things. This would qualify for ARPA. Tony would like to use ARPA for beautification in that  
34 area.

**Economic Development Advisory Committee**

**Date: August 17th, 2023**

**Town of Hooksett Municipal Building,**

**Time: 5:00 PM**

**Minutes**

35 **David asked Kathy reach out to have Tony Lacasse at next meeting in September.**

36 **Wayne** the new Master Plan is evolving, the location is something PB has been talking about it.

37 **David** what area is a Heritage District in our town?

38 **Alden** Where is the district? Goffstown has a popcorn stand in there downtown and we want to  
39 create something like that.

40 **David** if something could be resolved with Brady Sullivan, we could work with the Heritage  
41 District

42 **Wayne** my first meeting Brady Sullivan had their designer/engineer here, he had some good  
43 ideas for the area and with the village.

44 **Alden** yes, they had great ideas

45 **BRIANSTORMING:**

- 46 • **Business Retention Goals**
- 47 • **Local Business Outreach (Business of the Month)**

48

49 **David** The Ambassador Program we did previously. Does anyone have anything in mind to  
50 streamline that process and to get businesses in Hooksett

51 **Wayne** at PB the gas station proposal several members wanted it in brick. The guy that did the  
52 design for the station has been changing it the way we have been asking. He said if we don't ask  
53 then that is what you get. The design and architects \concepts are changing with the design was  
54 asking for. To have them come in and talk about where the middle ground is to have new  
55 buildings fit in with those that have been providing a better-looking design, can be expensive.

56 **David** we require more of the designs and when we didn't all we got were the metal buildings.  
57 They have stepped it up a bit and if they do it others follow along.

58 **David** What projects would we like to work on now.

**Economic Development Advisory Committee**

**Date: August 17th, 2023**

**Town of Hooksett Municipal Building,**

**Time: 5:00 PM**

**Minutes**

59 **Andre** I remember you had a list of questions from my 2016 report. What you did back then  
60 was talk to the business community. It takes a capacity that we don't have right now. You could  
61 divide the list into commercial, industrial and residential, break it down and discuss how it  
62 needs each other to be successful. It would not hurt to invite business owners in and what you  
63 may hear is not always positive, but it can be constructive.

64 **David** The new owners of Tri Town would be good to talk too. I will reach out to them. Maybe  
65 have a business come in once a month.

66 **Alden** yes, the new owners are doing great things there.

67 **Andre** we can visit or have them in. maybe structure some base questions that would be of  
68 interest to the EDAC people tuning in to the meetings.

69 **Wayne** the Master Plan update is what prompted me to get involved and it goes further to  
70 reach the state and county. Last February EDAC had a meeting with Kiwanis and the Planner  
71 provided a power point that was very nice. We could invite Tri Town, or we can reach out to  
72 several businesses and update them on what is going on, they may not realize.

73 **David** 1 at a time, they may open up more.

74 **Alden** I think Tri Town would be great to talk too and about a dorm or housing for their  
75 students

76 **David** At the next meeting we will invite Tri Town and Tony Lacasse. Our new Planner will start  
77 on Sep 5. I think someone from ZBA on this board would be good too.

78 ***Andre Elizabeth Robidoux is our new Town Planner***

79 ***David asked Andre if he had any update for EDAC***

80 **Andre** a project like the Ambassador is good to look at again. It never hurts to get info from our  
81 businesses in regard to economic development and what is needed for them. Like the TIF and  
82 the new infrastructure that is being made is so important.

83 **Wayne** St Mary's was looking into solar, and the planner agreed that it should not go on the  
84 front lawn, it would not look good. The front lawn will perpetually be lawn.

**Economic Development Advisory Committee**

**Date: August 17th, 2023**

**Town of Hooksett Municipal Building,**

**Time: 5:00 PM**

**Minutes**

85 **Alden** do we know where we stand on housing needs in Hooksett at this point? Do we meet the  
86 needs of Hooksett.

87 **Andre** SNHPC needs assessment was presented to the Planning Board and I strongly suggest  
88 everyone read it. We don't have a lot of medium income housing.

89 **Alden** Catholic Charities pulled out of a big project here because of being in Merrimack County  
90 and they lost their funding. They went to Peterborough, and I was blown away at how they  
91 were received and in 1 meeting they were welcoming and receptive to what they wanted to do.  
92 They realized the importance for their businesses. Also, Robie's had a Grand Opening this last  
93 Sunday. It went well.

94 **Wayne** the presentation that SNHPC provided of affordable housing is the key thing. Everything  
95 going on is not affordable, but that's everywhere not just Hooksett. Developing property to  
96 have affordability is so important. The BS project was all just high end.

97 **Andre** Brady Sullivan has appealed to the Superior Court for the decision that ruled in favor of  
98 Hooksett. It will be heard next month. Off-site improvements at exit 11 are moving forward but  
99 nothing on the Granite Woods Development site. Talk of the pump station and the difficulty  
100 they are having in completing that are because of the water levels.

101 **ADJOURNMENT: Motion made @ 5:53 by Peter Stoddard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wayne Russell. All in favor**

102 **NEXT MEETING: September 20**

103

104

105

106