

Town of Eliot

Business Development Committee-Meeting Minutes-September 1, 2010

Present: John Chagnon, Craig Goss, Dwight Snow, Betsy O'Donoghue, Doug Keith, Russ McMullen, Kristin McMullen-Orr.

Absent: Chuck Bradbury

Call to order: John Chagnon-4:36pm. There was no meeting held in July or August.

Public Comment: No Public Comment.

Review of Agenda: Agreed upon as written.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Craig Goss presented June 23, 2010 minutes for review and comment. No changes were made. Russ M. made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Kristin M. 2nd. All agreed.

Upcoming Business After Hours Event-September 15, 2010: Kristin M. reported the event has been advertised for 9/15 from 5-7:00 pm at the Regatta Room in Eliot. Sponsors are in place and we thank them for their support (Richard Donhauser, CPS and John Pappas, Merrill Lynch). Flyers were handed out to all members with the request that they hang them in various high traffic areas around town.

A discussion ensued on the date of the next BAH to be announced at this event. It is decided that February 9, 2011 is the best date for the first event of the coming year. It will be announced at the 9/15 BAH. We will also ask those in attendance if they are interested in sponsoring the next event. Two sponsors are needed and preferred.

It has also been proposed that the Chairman give a brief explanation of the committees work to attempt to change the "height" ordinance in the commercial district. We anticipate this going to town vote in November and would like to ask all voters/business owners in attendance to consider supporting the proposed changes.

Preliminary discussion began on whether we will have a 2nd annual Business Showcase in 2011. There seems to be positive support for the event from the committee. This year's event was in April. Further discussion on next year's event will follow at upcoming meetings.

Election of Officers for 2010-2011: Officers for the Business Development committee are up for election at this time. Nominations were made for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary.

For Chairman, Craig G. Nominated Kristin McMullen (John Chagnon had expressed his intention not to repeat as chairman this year due to other obligations. We thank him for his prior service). Russ M. 2nd the nomination. Vote was all in favor of nomination.

For Vice Chairman, Kristin nominated John Chagnon. Doug K. 2nd the nomination. Vote was all in favor of nomination. John C. will also continue on as Treasurer.

For Secretary, Craig Goss agreed to stay on in this position for the upcoming year.

Implementation of Goals: The chairman presented an overview of the goals the committee put forth at prior meeting.

For Review they include:

1. Promote Positive Business Committee.
2. Zoning changes.
3. Board of Selectman Interaction.
4. Coordination and Outreach.

Discussion was begun on how to implement these goals.

Some points of discussion for each goal.

1. Promote Positive Business committee.

Ways for the committee to work behind the scenes.
Examples: The business Showcase and the Town sign.

Coordinate with other committees.
Create business location.

2. Zoning changes

Push for implementation of Comp. Plan.
Work toward Height ordinance change.

3. Board of Selectman

Delegate a BOS contact
Convince BOS of importance of moving agenda on various subjects such as Comp. Plan, H2O and Sewer.
Invite Maine and Company.

4. Coordination and Outreach

Chamber of commerce involvement.
Coordinate with town boards and committees.
Survey of Residents/Business Visitations.

All items open for further discussion. Russ M. and Doug K. updated the committee on their meeting to further goals implementation. The outcome of their discussion centered around two primary themes.

1. Finding a way to get all boards/committees in town to have a set theme toward business development.
2. Not having the town get involved in an Industrial development Park/Zone.

Doug Keith presented an Idea he termed “Safe Harbor”- It centers around the potential of working with the various boards and committees to determine what the town” is willing to accept or approve” when it come to business development. If the town had a pre-approved set of guidelines, it would be easier for businesses to begin development in town without having to start from scratch each time a development inquiry is made.

Discussion continued on this theme and centered on the idea of having a full time Planner in the town of Eliot (or perhaps sharing one with another town). Right now Eliot has a planning Assistant but not a professional planner to help developers/business owner thru the application process in Eliot.

Russ M. brought the discussion back around to finding out what the town is willing to accept in terms of business development. He emphasized that perhaps the committee should try at this point to arrange a joint meeting of all the boards and committees that would impact business development. We could then invite Peter Del Greco and his company to address the meeting with the same presentation given to our committee, to try and stimulate further discussion with the other committees/boards on this subject.

There seems to be some consensus to attempt this. Further discussion will take place at upcoming meetings.

Garmin (Locators) Eliot Address Issue: This issue remains status quo, with no clear avenue for correction. The committee recommended getting back with Dan Blanchette, Town Administrator, to see where we go from here. The committee feels this is an important problem we would like to see resolved.

Building Height (Proposed Ordinance change): The Chairman gave an update on the status of these proposed changes. The Height Issue in on the Planning Board agenda for Sept. 7th for review of a final draft to be presented to the Selectman. It is hopeful that if approved, it can be sent to the Selectman by the 9th. It is needed soon by the Selectman so there is time to have it placed on the November town Ballot.

Business Development: No New welcome letters. No closures or business openings to report.

New Business: A discussion was opened on the value of purchasing the “Maine Biz Book”. The book contains information of all sorts on businesses located in Maine. It is felt this information would be of great value to this committee.

A motion was made to purchase this book by Russ M. It was 2nd by Kristin M. Doug K. asked if we might not be able to request a free copy first. That request will be made. All agreed with the motion to purchase if a free copy is unavailable.

Next Meeting: September 22, 4:30pm Eliot Town Hall

Adjourned: 6:22pm