

Brunswick Economic Development Corporation



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Summary of Meeting Held April 1, 2009

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the Brunswick Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 between approximately 2:40 pm and 4:35 pm.

Directors present: Debbie Atwood, Cathy Barter, Anna Breinich, Gary Brown, Michael Jones, Joanne King, Ed Knox, Bill Morrell, Thomas Rumpf, Steve Weems

Town staff present: Brian Dancause

Guests present: Charles Wiercinski, President, Sitelines, Inc.

BEDC Vice President Steve Weems chaired the meeting. He moved a briefing by Charlie Wiercinski, President, Sitelines, Inc., about optional road configurations for a potential Paul Street extension, to the front of the agenda. Mr. Wiercinski, a guest, had prepared charts showing four different potential road configurations, in a for-your-information briefing based on prior work completed by Sitelines, Inc. He was not representing any company or individual at the BEDC meeting. It was noted the Brunswick Town Council has a subcommittee looking at Pleasant Street and related traffic issues. Following his presentation and a general discussion, Mr. Wiercinski left the meeting.

Mr. Weems said he had received earlier in the day a resignation letter from BEDC President and Director Mike Ouellet. Board members present accepted the letter with regret and directed Weems to draft an appreciation letter to Mr. Ouellet for his service, provide commentary to the media as appropriate, and find new meeting space. In accordance with the BEDC bylaws, the Vice President is to discharge the duties of the President until a new President is elected.

The minutes of the prior meeting were approved.

Recent Town Council workshops on (i) official Town Council economic development priorities, (ii) tax increment financing (TIF), and (iii) the organizational structure for economic development in three other communities (Scarborough, Portland, and Freeport) were discussed. Regarding the economic development priorities to be considered by the Town Council on April 6, councilors Joanne King and Debbie Atwood emphasized the recommendations being brought forward were designed primarily to serve as a short-term (2009) guide for Town staff, including the new Director of Community & Economic Development, not as a comprehensive statement of community and economic development needs. Therefore the omission of key topics such as Brunswick Naval Air Station (BNAS) redevelopment and a new (regional) business park did not indicate these are unimportant; rather, upon adoption by the full Town Council, this document would serve as direction for Town staff to make the listed topics its priorities in 2009. Steve Weems noted the BEDC is committed to providing time for general public input, at least once per quarter, at its regular meetings, starting with the July 2009 annual meeting.

Acting Town Manager Gary Brown reported on the search effort for a new Director of Community & Economic Development. He said the search was going well and one candidate is emerging as the consensus candidate among Town council members and staff who have participated in the process to date.

Important development initiatives were discussed. Maine Street Station is under construction. JHR Development of Maine, LLC (JHR Development) would like to open discussions with the Town about having the Town of Brunswick enter into a master lease for certain central space for a transportation and visitor center. Various private discussions about the Grand City Building continue. There are many BNAS closure activities occurring in parallel. No suitable regional business park site or mechanism to develop any specific site has emerged. Other in-town business problems and opportunities were discussed.

End.