

Brunswick Economic Development Corporation



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Summary of Meeting Held February 4, 2009

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the Brunswick Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) was held on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 between approximately 2:40 pm and 5:00 pm.

Directors present: Debbie Atwood, Cathy Barter, Anna Breinich, Gary Brown, Ted Crooker, John Gerard, Joanne King, Bill Morrell, Doug Niven, Mike Ouellet, Steve Weems

Town staff present: Brian Dancause

After approving the minutes of the prior meeting, Cathy Barter, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the recommendations of the committee to fill the 4 open private Board positions (of 13 private, 6 public Board positions). After discussion, the directors present voted unanimously to accept the slate put forth by the Nominating Committee, and recommend the following four individuals to the Brunswick Town Council for its approval: Michael Jones, Ed Knox, Judith Long, and Thomas Rumpf. The Board noted the excellent work of the Nominating Committee and the diversity of experience the new prospective Board members would bring to the work of the BEDC.

Acting Town Manager Gary Brown reported the Town Council has confirmed the vacant position of Economic Development Director will be filled as soon as possible, with the individual in this position reporting directly to the Town Manager. The job has been posted at various locations, including the town's website. After discussion, certain steps to ensure the Outreach & Communications Commitment is fulfilled were generally endorsed. The Board reaffirmed its support of this commitment (plan), as previously posted.

Construction is underway on the Maine Street Station project. Receipt of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding support has been delayed but is expected in March 2009. The issue of who might function as a "master

lessee” for the public spaces associated with the train station portion of the project remains open.

The status of 128 Maine Street (the Grand City space) was discussed, along with potential reuse options. Filling this space remains a top priority.

The Board discussed the status of and issues pertaining to the closure of Brunswick Naval Air Station (BNAS). The Town and other interested parties (including operating businesses with an interest in use of property and/or buildings on the base) will have to work within the timing and related parameters of the Navy and the BRAC process. The potential impact of the sale of the 700+ units of Navy housing is a critically important immediate issue, since these units have been put up for sale.

An ad-hoc group including members of Topsham Development, Inc. (TDI) and the BEDC is looking at potential models of multi-town cooperation that could lead to development of a regional business park. This could include Topsham, Brunswick and other area communities. This work is preliminary. It is understood the governing bodies of each potential participating town would have to be brought into the process at an early date.

Other business opportunities were discussed. Things are slow. The Town of Brunswick is limited in how it can help certain new and expanding businesses without access to a business park (a new Brunswick Business Park or regional business park). When a business is ready to expand or establish a new facility the potential host community must be ready or the business will move on to another community with the assets and capacity the business needs.

End.