

Brunswick Economic Development Corporation



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Summary of Meeting Held March 4, 2009

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

Directors present: Debbie Atwood, Cathy Barter, Anna Breinich, Gary Brown, Ted Crooker, Rol Fessenden, John Gerard, Michael Jones, Joanne King, Ed Knox, Judith Long, Mike Ouellet, Thomas Rumpf, Bill Torrey, and Steve Weems.

Town staff present: Brian Dancause

BEDC President Mike Ouellet welcomed the following new Board members to the meeting: Michael Jones, Ed Knox, Judith Long, and Thomas Rumpf. The only remaining vacancy is that of Town of Brunswick Economic Development Director, created by the December resignation of Mathew Eddy.

After approving the minutes of the prior meeting, it was noted the subject of community and economic development most likely would be a recurring item on Town Council agendas during the spring. The BEDC hopes this will provide a desirable focus, opportunities for public input, and greater clarity on the priorities of the Town Council. Debbie Atwood said the subject of economic development priorities most likely would be on the March 23 Town Council agenda. The BEDC plans to participate in this council meeting, as appropriate. Also, it was noted that contact information (a phone number and email address) for each BEDC board member is being added to the information on the BEDC website.

A brief discussion ensued about the BEDC's published list (December 3, 2008) of economic development priorities. These have been submitted to the Town Council for consideration. Michael Jones noted the potential value of the BNAS housing as an economic development asset. Rol Fessenden and Mike Ouellet noted the continuing importance of fostering understanding about economic development issues in Brunswick.

There was a discussion about prospects for reuse of the Grand City building, issues pertaining to continuing delay in award of a prospective \$850,000 EDA grant to help fund work at Maine Street Station, and current interest in certain Brunswick Naval Air Station (BNAS) buildings and locations.

Steve Weems and John Gerard reported on continuing discussions among an ad-hoc group from Topsham and Brunswick about the possibility of multi-town collaboration to locate a new regional business park. The immediate goal is to bring forth a "statement of principles," that could lead to a multi-town cooperative effort, for independent consideration by the Topsham Board of Selectmen and Brunswick Town Council.

Acting Town Manager Gary Brown provided a short briefing on the process to hire a new Town of Brunswick Economic Development Director, and confirmed this remains a high priority. Steve Weems provided an update on activities of the separate Brunswick Development Corporation (BDC).

Current business opportunities and issues were discussed, including some that pertain to the reuse of BNAS. The environmental impact statement (EIS) on BNAS reuse is now scheduled to be completed in mid-2010. Even early conveyances would be after that date, possibly during 2011. The timing of more complicated potential conveyances and other re-use possibilities remains unknown.

End.