

Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce
Business Support Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2008

Attendance:

| | | |
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| Ed Despres, Chair | Peter Gosline | Pamela Gleeson |
| Barbara Miller | Ken Simonetta | Bonnie Kurylo |
| Peter Brown | Gordon Hale | Laura Gingras |
| Pam Crook | David Reilly | Joe Hart |
| Jack Dugan | Carol Ogilvie | |

Call to order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ed Despres at 7:35AM.

Motion was made and accepted to accept the February meeting minutes as presented.

Acknowledgements:

Fifteen members of the Sign Committee were recognized and thanked by Ed for the progress that has been made over the past nine months and 25 meetings. They are now in the final phase of the project.

Sign Committee Update:

I.D. Resources, Inc, owned by Reed Hayes of Peterborough, has been chosen by the committee to construct the six new Welcome to Peterborough signs. Estimated completion and installation date is by the end of May, assuming our snow is melted by then!

Guest Speaker:

Jack Dugan, Business Development Officer for Peterborough and President of Monadnock Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), was our guest speaker. Jack had last spoken to our committee about two years ago and updated us on several developments both Past & Present.

- James Key-Wallace, who was his assistant, has left to work for the NH Community Loan Fund based in Concord, NH.
- MEDC has signed a P & S to buy the Whiton Bldg., former home to MBV (Monadnock Business Ventures) and which still serves as an incubator space for small and newly established businesses.
- His office was instrumental on bringing \$1 million in Block Grants to Town so far, \$500,000 of which will be for Monadnock Community Hospital new road project.
- The prior Board of MBV has now merged with MEDC and is serving towns from New Ipswich to Keene.
- There have been inquiries from several companies looking for 65,000 sq. ft. of space for clean businesses, representing 80 +/- new jobs.
- Evans Flats Development represents another opportunity for an additional Block Grant using the jobs created by a new grocery store as leverage to help develop a plan for the area.
- NHBB is looking for skilled people, which also means additional work force housing needed in the area.
- MEDC to get involved in Training Consortium to include NHBB to help businesses expand and to find people locally so they can continue to grow their base here.
- He plans to re-focus on downtown revitalization for help on upgrading buildings such as the Granite Block.
- There is a need to re-fill the Whiton Bldg., along with the former NEBS and Brookstone Buildings.

Jack was asked how he gets leads or requests in from prospective new companies. He reported that some companies call direct, some through State, from Real Estate Brokers, and some from private individuals with business relationships to larger companies. He then calls private property owners to make arrangements and contacts. Other leads also come in through the Town Office of Community Development.

He is currently helping on some projects such as Woodbound Inn in Rindge and a Rehabilitation Center in New Ipswich.

Peter G., who was on the Board of MBV and now on Board of MEDC, says they currently have twelve members. He feels the joining of the two groups was a success and local projects still getting attention and the benefit of a larger organization.

Zoning Changes:

Carol O. passed out some of the zoning changes as proposed by the Planning Board. These came about from some of the recommendations of Mark Fougere, who was hired to review our Master Plan and Zoning Regulations. The changes seem to try and streamline what is already in place and reduce discrepancies between the Master Plan and the Town's ordinances.

Ed also indicated that a statement was published in the last Chamber newsletter supporting the School Board Budget Process and encouraging people to vote. He also reminded members that the next meeting on April 11th will feature Green Business and its effect on Peterborough with guest speakers Jane LaPointe, Jim Hassinger and Joe Byk.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Despres
Chair and Secretary Pro-Tem