

Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce  
Business Support Committee Minutes  
April 11, 2008

Chair Ed Despres called the April 11th Business Support Committee Meeting to order at 7:35AM with the following members and guests in attendance.

Ed Despres, Chairperson	Carol Ogilvie	Jack Dugan, MEDC
Bob Edwards, Vice Chair	Barbara Miller	Tom Humphrey, MCH
Joe Hart	Laura Gingras	Peter Gosline
Ken Simonetta	Jack Burnett	David Reilly
Bonnie Kurylo	Joe Byk	Dave Chicane
Mike Flynn	Liz Graves	Jane LaPoint
Pamela Gleeson		

Chair Ed Despres introduced Jack Burnett to discuss the up-coming Greenerborough Festival scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>. Jack discussed the booths and exhibits, healthy food vendors, Planet Earth movie at the theatre and the need for 9 Chamber volunteers. Jack further commented on the Chamber's On-Line Auction starting on 16<sup>th</sup>. He commented on the Chamber's brochure and how the Chamber is involved presently with three major activities.

Joe Byk commented that negotiations are in process with the Harris Center regarding a friendly taking of land by eminent domain as part of the grocery store effort in the Evans Flat area. The valuation of the subject parcel is hopefully going to be resolved by an appraisal through Whitney Associates to determine its restricted affect on its market value. It appears it may be resolved with \$7,000 consideration being paid to the Harris Center.

Chair Ed commented that the contract for the new Town of Peterborough signage has been signed, parts ordered and their arrival and installation appears on target for the end of May 08.

Bonnie Kurylo commented briefly on PSNH sponsorship of the 5<sup>th</sup> annual conference, New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility (NHBSR), scheduled for May 15, 2008. Former Governor Jeanne Shaheen will kick-off the conference.

Chair Ed spoke to the R word (recession) and the "green industry" and how it may help pull us out of a recession. Ed introduced Jane LaPointe, who is a member of the Town's Energy Advisory Group. Jane provided a great presentation and explained the definition of a Green Business and its many interpretations. When businesses are thinking and planning for sustainability, green thinking is a part of their strategy. She noted that every industry operates within a business cycle and the green industry is presently in its growth cycle.

Joe Byk commented about the logging industry and the cost of diesel fuel and its adverse impact on company expenses and profits. He spoke about several green businesses in Peterborough and some that are involved in the process presently at some level.

Barbara Miller asked what specific businesses have gone green. Pamela Gleeson spoke about Monadnock Paper Mills (recycled paper and vegetable oil in their inks), NHBB's involvement in the green movement, Millipore too. Reference was made to Gary Hirshberger's book entitled *Stirring it Up* and its reference to green efforts.

The comment was made that Peterborough has an 82% success rate with its recycling effort. Ken Simonetta commented on China buying recyclables and paper waste.

Peterborough's next specific growth industry may be green related. Jobs have been comprised of white and blue collar workers and now green collar workers as well.

The need for a catalyst to champion the development and expansion of the green industry in Peterborough was expressed. This is necessary to both attract and expand existing in-town businesses. Many people state that their building or company operation is “green” but a specific standard/criteria needs to be developed or perhaps utilize standards already established in other communities to develop a “green ordinance or building code” with incentives. There is considerable information available and there is no need to start from scratch. Perhaps a Green Business of the Year award/recognition would be a good idea or create a coop for green material purchases - Sustainable Peterborough!

Barbara Miller asked that if a green building code/ordinance is developed and adopted, would it be mandatory? Jane stated no and that it would probably be consumer driven.

Tom Humphrey commented on wood chip power systems and the geo-thermal operation now being utilized at Merrimack County Nursing Home.

Joe Byk was introduced as a Peterborough Selectman and he quoted today’s green effort in Cy Gregg’s words as being “just good business.” He discussed what Peterborough as a community is doing with its efforts to support the green movement. He commented on the recently conducted garden tour that included Peterborough’s transfer station. He noted Peterborough’s adoption of a no idling policy and its recycling efforts. He spoke about retrofitting buildings and the financing component and referred to MEDC’s efforts in Keene under Jack Dugan.

He spoke about the Evans Flats neighborhood development effort and a pending RFP that should develop considerable interest. A general discussion occurred regarding commercial property values and future desirability when existing properties are not energy efficient, and the cost to cure is considerable. Although somewhat more expensive presently to construct, the return on investment over time will justify the green investment from an operating cost basis and from a future marketability and value standpoint as well.

Overall thoughts of importance included:

- 1) The development of a Peterborough Green Building Ordinance
- 2) The suggestion that everyone learn what “LEED” truly means – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.
- 3) Develop a universal standard that clearly defines a green building

Peter Gosline commented that retrofitting an existing building such as the hospital’s older buildings requires a process from which to get from point A to point B. The process allows buildings to become initially “light green” and eventually green.

Chair Ed summarized the meeting’s overall discussion and urged support and attendance at Peterborough’s Greenerborough Festival on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made, properly seconded and voted in the affirmative to approve the minutes of our March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Next months meeting is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> and the speaker will be announced as we get closer to the meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50AM.

Respectfully,

**Bob**

Bob Edwards

Vice Chair and Secretary Pro-Tem