

Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce  
Business Support Committee Minutes  
May 9, 2008

Chair Ed Despres called the meeting to order at 7:30AM at Monadnock Community Hospital with the following members and guests in attendance.

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ed Despres, Chair       | Gordon Hale                    |
| Bob Edwards, Vice Chair | Joe Hart                       |
| Peter Brown             | David Reilly                   |
| Pam Crook               | John Vance                     |
| Jack Dugan, Pres. MEDC  | Pamela Gleeson                 |
| George Duncan           | Dave Juvet, SVP, BIA (speaker) |

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 11, 2008 minutes. Motion was passed in the affirmative.

Acknowledgements:

Chair Ed reminded all present of Peterborough's upcoming voting date of 5/13. He also mentioned the 5/14 open session and voting on 5 specific articles and referred to Select Chair Joe Byk's recent newspaper article that discusses the Peterborough Armory and the proposed Evans Flat development. Ed passed out a copy of the 5-1-08 Ledger-Transcript article. Other dates of special mention included:

- 5/15 BAH-Bond Wellness Center at MCH
- 5/15 Socially Responsible Energy Conference sponsored by PSNH
- 5/21 Pam encouraged everyone to attend the Antrim BAH at Place in the Woods. Major positive improvements have occurred under the Kendall ownership.

Ed also spoke to Carol Ogilvie's recent article regarding TIF (Tax Increment Financing) and passed out a copy to those in attendance.

Pam Crook mentioned that the Greenerborough Festival was excellent and very busy.

The hospital expansion program was mentioned and Peter Gosline will speak to that proposal at some future time.

Sustainable Peterborough is seeking additional members and if interested, please contact Leandra MacDonald. Jack Dugan mentioned that Green Rehab has begun in Peterborough with several individuals and/or businesses participating at various levels. Jack Dugan mentioned NHHFA's approval of a \$16,000 feasibility grant to study workforce housing in the Evans Flat area.

Jack further discussed that MEDC is seeking a new location in Peterborough. This may include a historic renovation of a building but as yet, the location isn't finalized. Select Chair Joe Byk is seeking grant funding for home and business owners who are completing green improvements to their home or business to fill the gap between the cost and available conventional financing. He is approaching Shaw's and will use the Evans Flat state grant to fund the Green Fund.

Chair Ed Despres introduced David Juvet, SVP of the N.H. BIA to discuss various statewide legislative issues and points of interest to NH residents.

He noted the approaching end of the legislative session and both houses are finalizing legislative bills. He discussed in depth the Senate's RGHG bill (NH participation is a 10 state effort to reduce green house gases).

He discussed education funding initiatives and the existing effort to define the "true cost" of education. He further discussed the need for a constitutional amendment to allow targeting and the progress of this effort.

He discussed workforce housing and the need for a definitive definition as too many interpretations presently exist. Once decided, the definition needs to be made part of the statute. He discussed the expedited appeal proposal with a community if a developer feels an unfair decision was reached by a planning board. The House and Senate have similar bills.

David discussed unemployment insurance and the possibility the State may allow part-time workers to collect if they are seeking part-time work. He suggested a huge improvement may not occur. He discussed the unemployment insurance tax rate, now positive-rated, and loss of unemployment discount.

John Vance mentioned that a Milwaukee earth moving manufacturer can't locate trained employees. Can't find male applicants for certain scholarship programs and appears they are not seeking technical colleges. In response, a bill is in the legislature to develop an advanced manufacturing curriculum targeted to high school students. Also a program to enlighten kids about the manufacturing/factory opportunities and help reduce their possible unfavorable impression.

Pam Crook raved about the Chamber's/ NHBB Education breakfast and its great success.

Chair Despres commented on the state revenue forecast being positive for the next two years. Comment was made that the state transfer tax is way down and the Governor announced considerable budget cuts and tax increases. He spoke to the cigarette tax increase of 25 cents, Texas Holdings, bingo, volume discount (wine/liquor) and the Finance Committees 2-day hearing on the subject.

BET/BIT is currently being left alone but noted that next year all bets are off. Chair Ed asked about a state income tax. David Juvet indicated that many Democrats, including leadership, are not coming out presently to support the idea.

Joe Hart mentioned that private industry can't sell wine below state pricing.

John Vance referred to a recent article comparing the US economy with other world economies.

Pamela Gleeson commented on the CVT Cooperative under Rebecca Harris's leadership. Ride Share program in a 12 town region. Event and school ride pooling-large employers earning points with incentives with the goal of having as many as possible use public transportation to major cities. A New Freedom grant of \$40,000 is being sought.

Chair Despres mentioned that Peterborough's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary will occur in 2010. Pam Crook mentioned that she was not aware of any planning process existing at this time.

Chair Despres announced that Carol Ogilvie, Director of the Office of Community Development will discuss "Peterborough Wetlands Project Presentation" at our next BSC meeting scheduled for June 13, 2008.

Hearing no other business to come before the meeting, a motion to adjourn was voted in the affirmative at 8:45AM.

Respectfully,

*Bob*

Bob Edwards

Vice Chair and Secretary Pro-Tem

Peterborough's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will occur in 2010. The planning process has not yet started.