

**Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce
Business Support Committee Minutes
June 13, 2008**

Chair Ed Despres called the June 13th Business Support Committee Meeting to order at 7:40AM with the following members and guests in attendance.

Ed Despres, Chairperson	Gordon Hale	David Reilly
Bob Edwards, Vice Chair	Ted Geary	Peter Gosline
John Vance	Pamela Gleeson	Ken Simonetta
Carol Ogilvie, Director OED	Fash Farashahi, GIS / Planner Specialist	

Approval of previous minutes:

Chair Ed Despres circulated the minutes and after adequate review time requested a motion to accept the May 9th minutes. A motion was made, seconded and passed in the affirmative.

Acknowledgements:

Chair Ed Despres commented on the Monadnock Community Hospital's planning board efforts regarding the Hospital's expansion plan. Peter Gosline also commented that everything is moving forward and a site visit with the Planning Board is scheduled.

Ted Geary commented that he's experiencing a bit of a lull presently and that deals have been a little slower coming together recently. Financing is slower with recent market issues and some deals may require 9-12 months to finalize.

Chair Ed Despres asked the members present their desires regarding holding BSC meetings during July and August. The consensus was not to have meetings during July and August and begin them again in September.

He also encouraged members to think about speakers they might like to have and notify him with any suggestions.

He further reminded all in attendance of the up-coming BIA sponsored Roundtable Regional Input meeting to be held on Tuesday at Ocean Bank.

Chair Ed commented on the Sign Committee's progress and stated that after a few delays the schedule is back on track. Post issues have been resolved-cedar posts not steel. Signs are almost complete and they are expected to be in Reed Hayes business office (ID Resources, Inc.) in Jaffrey soon for viewing. The week of June 23rd is expected for installation. Peter Gosline asked if there will be a public unveiling and Ed indicated there would be.

Chair Ed commented on the recent article in Business NH regarding broadband, affordable/workforce housing, zoning challenges to businesses and recent changes to zoning/land use regulations that are more helpful to the business sector.

Ed's comments served as introduction to today's speaker, OCD Director Carol Ogilvie who commented on Peterborough's Wetlands Project presentation, improved wetland mapping, and the failure of the effort to increase the wetland buffer from 50 to 100 feet. This caused the rewriting and improvement of the existing wetland/conservation ordinance.

Carol Ogilvie then introduced Fash Farashahi, GIS/Planner Specialist who works with Carol. Fash stated that he worked with Antioch seeking a model coupled with public input that would edit wetland boundaries so they can accomplish a better sense of Peterborough's wetland acreage and how all the wetlands fit together. A document was created and entitled Wetland Functional Assessment Review and is now on-line. The surveys were reviewed and a public meeting was held to receive input and seek participant's feelings

of what is important to preserve. The purpose was to identify the most important functions. The public meeting participants were provided the “sticky dots” to place on wetland maps to document their feelings. A wetland scientist’s will then evaluate wetland complexes.

Peter Gosline commented on the wetland areas on Rte 202N and the state taking of land for wetland mitigation. Ken Simonetta asked if the town determines the set back requirements. Carol responded that they do. Carol further stated that it is function vs. value. The intent is to develop a sliding scale set back (buffer) based on specific criteria. She reemphasized the importance of public input.

Ted Geary stated that working with a developer on a project requires a cross section of interests. Developers and town’s have different motivations.

Peter Gosline asked if some wetlands are more sensitive than others and if so, shouldn’t the requirements be different? The response was probably they should. Peter continued with a question as to whether a soil scientist can connect the different areas. Fash indicated yes and the NH model is favored for doing so.

Carol and Fash continue to solicit the public’s input. The initial public meeting, EDA meetings, additional town house forums, speaking with other interested groups, and receiving input from planning board members are all effective methods to gain as much public input as possible.

Dave Reilly questioned why the delineation was not what is seen from the air. Fash indicated that the mapping is the result of air and ground work and is influenced by the time of year, changes of seasons and construction changes as well.

Peter Gosline asked how wetland setbacks can be enforced when boundaries are always changing. Alternatives include permanent markers and stakes.

Carol commented on the grocery store effort and expected that by the end of June or first part of July 08, the site work would begin. An October opening is anticipated.

She further stated that TIF efforts in W. Peterborough are in process presently. The property owners have been great to work with and Carol hopes to select a contractor by October and complete the project by October 2009. TIF funding is strong even without the full positive impact of Nubanusit River Neighborhood’s new residential development. The bond taken to complete the work in W. Peterborough was for a 15-year term but they expect to retire it in 8 years. The vote to bond the project required a two-thirds majority and it exceeded the required two-thirds. The engineers have identified 52 parking locations in participation with Masonic Lodge, NE Wood Design and others.

Dave Reilly asked about what’s transpiring on Old Street Road. Carol indicated new water line construction and paving. Traffic calming efforts are being discussed at the July Selectmen’s meeting.

Old Business:

Chair Ed discussed future speaker suggestions for the next meeting scheduled for September 12th. Representative from Shaw’s or CVS are potential candidates.

Pamela Gleeson commented on the Kind Hearted Arts Program and the need for funding to support transportation to NYC. Interested parties may contact Leandra MacDonald.

No other business came before the meeting and a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed at 8:55AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Edwards
Secretary Pro-Tem