

**Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce
Business Support Committee Minutes
September 12, 2008
AMENDED**

Attendance:

Ed Despres, Chair	George Duncan	Carol Ogilvie
Bob Edwards, V. Chair	Pam Crook	Pamela Gleeson
Bonnie Kurylo	Gordon Hale	Ray Cote
Peter Brown	Laura Gingras	Joe Byk - guest

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes:

Chair Ed Despres called the Meeting to order at 7:30AM with greetings and a welcoming back after a summer recess from Business Support Meetings. Ed also extended best wishes to those exposed to the hurricane devastation in Texas.

Laura Gingras suggested a motion to accept the previous meeting minutes. Laura presented her motion, seconded by Gordon Hale. Motion carried.

Acknowledgements:

Ed commented on New Hampshire rankings as quoted by Business NH Magazine. In particular, he commented on bullet #3 that discussed NH being ranked second in the category of being the healthiest state. The award was based on 21 factors including affordability of health care and access to health providers. He further commented on MCH's great service and medical treatment.

Ed briefly commented on various activities that occurred throughout our summer recess including: fireworks at Con-Val, grocery store progress, Granite Block auction, the re-opening of the West Peterborough store at the former Gates Mill, new business opening at the Plaza, and the beautiful garden at Joseph's Coat. He also commented on our 7/2/08 breakfast honoring Steve Millard and Ed Hampson as our first Legends of Peterborough recipients. He recognized John Vance's on-going scholarship efforts and successes, wedding bells for our own **Laura Gingras**, on-going great construction progress at MCH and our successful Chamber Golf Event and in particular, Pam's generous gift of a new Jeep to the hole-in-one winner.

Ed further commented that 8/20/08 witnessed the last "Welcome to Peterborough" sign installation and read the complimentary comment in the Ledger-Transcript from Col. Wilfred Brassard about our new signage. He recognized and thanked Joe Byk and the Town of Peterborough for volunteering its staff and equipment and passed around photographs and the article for all to view. The second sign installed was on Temple Mountain and when Pamela first saw it she pulled her car over to view it and said to herself, I approve!

Ed commented on "Is Peterborough Our Town" and the Peterborough Historical Society's exhibit on Tuesday-Saturday 10-4PM through 12/19/08.

Further comments included the Business NH article regarding Waste Managements "Thinking Green" and explained what they are doing in NH and Maine.

Ed then introduced Peterborough Selectman Joe Byk as our speaker for the meeting to discuss the subject of "Sustainable Peterborough", the green building ordinance and other energy related matters of interest.

Joe began by explaining the composition of the committee membership formed in May 2008 and its biggest charge of educating people on the concept of building/renovating “green.”

Joe discussed the increased cost of 0%-1.7% to build under the Leed Program. Definition: The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green building rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to provide a suite of standards for environmentally sustainable construction. Joe pointed out that in Peterborough we are on the first rung of the ladder and expects to see an 8%-10% benefit from adoption of this concept.

He feels the learning curve will occur over the next 18 months and that initially, if adopted, the ordinance will be voluntary. By way of example on energy efficient buildings in Peterborough, an analysis was conducted on 10 Con-Val school buildings and they received a 5% score by the entity conducting the study/analysis. This was the lowest Energy Star level of management.

A standard is necessary to be able to measure compliance. Rather than using the standard “R” factor as a measurement, the new analysis measures air tightness-thermographic analysis (heat loss). The Committee’s recommendations will be presented to the Planning Board designed for a vote by the people at 2009 town meeting in the form of a green building ordinance.

Ray Côté discussed his concern regarding people becoming ill in buildings that are 60-70% airtight.

Pamela commented that there is a direct relationship between airtight buildings and electric usage.

Peter Brown questioned whether a new green ordinance would require existing individual homes to be brought up to the new standard. Joe Byk commented that it only affects new construction at this point.

Joe further stated he hopes to develop a revolving loan fund for green improvement borrowing whereby the energy savings would be sufficient to repay borrower’s loans. They are applying for a \$1M grant to renovate the second and third floors of the Granite Block for hotel use and the 4th floor used as a Green Center for learning. The first floor would remain as retail space. Ray commented that education on this subject is very exciting, voluntary compliance with a new ordinance is great too.

Joe stated that the zoning ordinance needs to be rewritten and the Planning Board is working on this matter presently. They are considering financial incentives to encourage green compliance.

Joe discussed how the banking and appraisal industry is approaching appraised value regarding buildings that are/are not energy efficient. Energy costs have a direct affect on value, desirability by tenants and potential buyers, rents and occupancy levels.

Ray commented about those who voted against the recommendation. They had cost concerns and there will be a cost affect. He asked if the building inspector is LEED qualified/certified. Joe indicated not presently but the matter is being discussed.

Laura stated that if the recommendation holds, the Planning Board would decide whether to adopt and recommend proceeding to a town meeting vote. There will be public hearings, potential changes, probably a second public hearing and a public town meeting vote.

Pamela reported that she is going through this energy analysis of her 2,000 sq. ft. property with Margaret Dillon. She would like to create a public forum opportunity for speakers to discuss their real-life energy experiences and provide educational material to those who participate.

Ray reported that the Antrim school buildings were well rated for energy efficiency and would like to review the entire report.

Ed feels that people need to read more on the subject and view the construction methods to better understand the cost benefits and to accept the concept.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Consider Peter Robinson to be nominated for Business Hero and Al Roy as a Business Legend for the next Chamber Legends of Peterborough event.

Laura suggested a letter from the Business Support Committee thanking Stan Fry for his acquisition and forward thinking with the development of the Granite Block. Laura volunteered to draft the letter for review.

Ed suggested a letter be prepared and signed by the BSC in support of the CDFA grant being requested to support the Granite Block renovation project. Ed will draft letter for review.

Ed encouraged members to submit names of possible recipients for consideration for our next Legends of Peterborough recognition event.

Ed reminded all present to attend the Sept 30th Special Town Meeting and vote for the proposed new water treatment facility project and funding.

Finally, Ed stated an effort will be made to dress up the general landscaping surrounding our new "Welcome to Peterborough" signs in time for Governor Lynch and Council's visit to Peterborough for award presentations to our Sign Committee and other organizations scheduled for September 17th at 10AM at the Town Hall.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Friday, October 10th at 7:30AM at MCH- Speaker to be announced later.

Adjournment:

Having no other business come before that meeting, the meeting was properly adjourned at 8:50 AM.

Bob Edwards
Secretary Pro-Tem