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Comprehensive Economical Development Strategy Meeting
April 14, 2011
Rochester Community Center, Rochester, NH
Minutes
Meeting 5

Members: Dan Barufaldi, John Hall, Ute Luxem, Lin Tamulonis, Paul Eaton, Warren Daniel, Craig Wheeler, Rick Foster, Dennis McCann and Jennifer flannery

SRPC Staff: Cynthia Copeland, Michelle Auen and Marilyn Barton

1. Welcome/Introductions

C. Copeland welcomed everyone to the meeting at 8 a.m. and asked for introductions around the room.

2. News and events

C. Copeland gave an overview of the previous meeting on March 24, 2011 and noted Robert Jaffin, John Hall, Linn Tamulonis and Glenn Coppelman came in between meetings and assisted with working on actions, etc.

M. Auen noted she and M. Barton would be attending the State of the State Business forum at the Governor's Inn on April 26, 2011 at 7:30 a.m.

C. Copeland noted at the last meeting, the Dover Newsletter had been on the agenda and due to time constraints was not brought up and asked D. Barafaldi to give an overview of the newsletter.

M. Auen stated Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) would be mapping all industrial and commercial sites for CEDS to include in the CEDS document and would be getting information for TIFF districts and ERZ. D. Barafaldi stated contacting someone at DRED for ERZ information. L. Tamulonis stated that information combined with a map would be nice to have included.

3. Dover Presentation-Land Sea and Space Museum

D. Barafaldi stated initially a group formed eight years ago regarding creation of an aquarium. D. Barafaldi gave an overview of the history of the Land Sea and Space museum and its origins of the river and oceans and over the years found it was better to include land and space issues. D. Barafaldi stated there is a piece of land on the curve of the Cocheco River with no new waterfront development and noted with a donation of land from the City of Dover, the group wants to put a multi-story museum,

aquarium and terrarium and partner with UNH to put labs in to take samples. D. Barafaldi stated it is a fifteen to twenty million-dollar project and would bring in lots of jobs to the area. D. Barafaldi noted there are some environmental issues, such as the DPW garage and noted the next step is to get a commitment from the City, which would take six months and then actually begin development.

D. Barafaldi noted this could make Dover an overnight destination as it would take a couple of days to go through it all and there are two potential sponsors-Disney and Coca Cola and Dover is very excited by the prospects. D. Barafaldi stated it would be a terrific use of buses and the Downeaster and the group was looking to have a conference center within the museum.

D. Barafaldi gave an overview of the Dover Economic Development Program. He noted the unemployment rate for Dover is currently 4.4% down from 6.1% in 2009 and 12,000 workers are exported daily to work elsewhere. D. Barafaldi noted the area is weak in business retention and the program tries to help struggling businesses by looking at various aspects. He also discussed goals the City is working on the Tuttle Farm Preservation as well increasing the number of trains a day that come into Dover. There was also discussion regarding the metered parking system in Dover and that parking is an important aspect for the mills vitality and in order to have a parking garage, their needs to be revenue. He also stated they are looking at other ideas such as pre-Easter and pre-Christmas or major storms to have no fees to encourage shopping in the downtown area.

There was a suggestion in the future that the order of the agenda be changed so that presentations were at the end of the meeting in order for CEDS work to be completed first.

4. Vision, Mission, Principles (Bellagio and Regional Collaboration)

M. Auen read over the vision and mission statements and was looking for consensus from the group on whether to go with it as presented. M. Auen noted work from L. Tamulonis and other comments received were incorporated into these statements.

It was decided on the first sentence of the mission statement to change “Region” to “Regional”. There was discussion on the use of the word “collaborators” rather than using committee. C. Copeland stated that would require certain legal notices and bylaws and it would be easier to remain as collaborators. D. McCann stated this group is really a clearinghouse for concepts and goals and not a policy making body and shows the EDA that items in the document have been discussed and worked out. It was also discussed regarding the last sentence of the mission stated to include the words, diverse and affordable in front of housing options. The consensus of the group was to go along with the statements with changes as discussed.

5. Discussion: Goals and Objectives

M. Auen noted Robert Jaffin and John Hall assisted with the goals and objectives and read over the documents and asked the group for any thoughts or comments they had.

D. Barafaldi stated under the goal for Economic Development, Attract investment wealth and capital should be added. Under goals for Economic Development under action two, assembling a regional portfolio of the available industrial properties and keeping current would be done on the SRPC website. There was a question under benchmarks for economic development regarding the WARN database system-D. Barafaldi stated it only kicks in at a certain threshold and M. Auen stated she would look into that.

C. Wheeler noted under regional collaboration that the northern sector of the region is very much part of this region. Under that same goal action number seven, representing Strafford CEDS interests at federal,

state and regional levels seems dangerous, as it is too diverse and would not be effective. It was also discussed that the benchmark of seventy-five percent of interested parties attend at least two-thirds of scheduled activities in a given period may be too high of an expectation and C. Copeland stated that would be looked at again.

Under the goal of Quality of Place, it was noted it was an important issue for the region. Under benchmarks for that goal regarding the measuring of miles of community trails within region, it was suggested they be mapped as well. D. Barafaldi suggested the benchmark regarding water treatment facilities should include a quality component.

Under the goal of Infrastructure there was discussion infrastructure and what it means traditionally or broadening the meeting. C. Copeland thanked everyone for participating and thought everyone did a great job.

6. Project Solicitation

M. Auen went over the CEDS Project Profile and once information is filled out from communities then it will be entered into a matrix. It was noted it does not have to be an EDA project; it just has bring in investment. M. Auen noted the document would be released in May for public review, have discussion and release the document again with changes, so there would be two public review sessions.

C. Copeland stated the Regional Administrator from the EDA in Philadelphia along with Congressman Frank Guinta will be here on April 27, 2011 for a visit to Rochester and SRPC would send out details.

7. Closing Remark/Adjournment

M. Auen noted the next meeting would be on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 8 a.m. and thanked everyone for their time and efforts.

Minutes submitted by,
Marilyn Barton, PHR