

March 2, 2023

Meeting Notes

Loudon Economic Development Committee Meeting

Attendees: EDC Members: Jeff Miller, Rodney Phillips, Stephen Caine, and Tom Blanchette. Central NH Regional Planning Commission: Mike Tardiff, Vincent Pagano

The March 2 meeting of the Loudon Economic Development Committee began at 5:30 pm. The members of the EDC considered the February 2, 2023 minutes for approval. Upon a motion by Tom Blanchette and a second by Jeff Miller, the February 2, 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Mike Tardiff reintroduced and outlined the responses to the RFP for a broadband consultant. There was one response to the RFP from Mission Broadband. Mr. Tardiff offered to come to the select board and introduce Mission Broadband. Mr. Blanchette mentioned money has already been awarded to the EDC for the purpose of selecting a consultant to support broadband development in Loudon. Mr. Blanchette said the EDC can make the decision to move forward with Mission Broadband as the consultant. Mr. Tardiff said upon selection to move forward with Mission Broadband, the consultant will produce a contract. Rodney Phillips motioned to approve to move forward with the Mission Broadband contract once it is in CNHRPC hands. The contract will be shown to the EDC then sent to the Town Administrator, Brenda Pearl, to move the funds to Mission Broadband. Tom Blanchette seconded the motion.

Vincent Pagano showed the committee the FCC Broadband Map updates that showed further detail into the level of service for each address. Stephen Miller asked how fast of internet do people need. The committee agreed that fast internet will help attract and maintain businesses in the town. The committee also agreed that the goal is in part to make sure the town is set up with reliable, fast internet infrastructure for the next couple of decades. Mr. Blanchette mentioned the Fire Department experiences internet slowing when internet demand is high in the town during the day.

The committee moved on to discuss the website for the EDC. Mr. Pagano showed example sites from other EDCs that Loudon could take inspiration from. Mr. Tardiff asked if the townspeople want to draw attention to the town being open for business. The EDC members agreed that most likely townspeople would like to see Loudon attract new business. The website discussion will be kept on the agenda for further discussion.

The EDC moved to Other Business. Vincent Pagano and Mike Tardiff presented the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Project Priority List. The CEDS is updated every 5 years and includes projects that support economic activity within the region. Loudon falls within the CEDS region. CNHRPC is updating the list by June of 2023 and is seeking a representative from each town in the area to make sure all projects that should be included in the list are represented. Stephen Caine asked about the scope. Mr. Pagano mentioned there will be approximately three meetings, a kickoff, a meeting in late April, and a scoring meeting if the representative volunteers for the scoring subcommittee. Mr. Caine volunteered.

Mr. Blanchette mentioned there is a town volunteer committee event on March 28 and the EDC should have a representative. Mr. Tardiff said Jimmie Hinson may be interested.

The next meeting will be held on April 6 at 5:30 pm. Upon motion by Tom Blanchette and a second by Rodney Phillips the meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vincent Pagano