



TOWN OF PITTSFIELD
Economic Development Committee
PO Box 98, 85 Main Street
Pittsfield, NH 03263
March 23, 2016

1. Meeting opened at 6:05.
2. Attendees: Roland Carter, John Freeman, Fred Hast, Adam Cote, Joe Cortese, Carole Richardson, Helen Schopmeyer, Jim Pritchard, Robert Schiferle, Helen Schiff, Donna Ward, Pam Houle, Clayton Wood, Ted Mitchell (TM) Ellen Barbasso (EB), Matt Monahan (CNHRPC) and Stu Arnett (Arnett Development Group)
3. Economic Development Visioning Session
 - A. Matt Monahan presented demographic data comparing 2000 and 2014
 - B. Economic overview of region compared to the state and the nation
 - C. Employment analysis and projections
 - D. SWOT findings (strengths, weaknesses/threats, opportunities, Recommendations)
 - E. Master Plan survey results
4. Challenges
 - A. Finding qualified workers
 - B. Trucking (we are one half hour away from the main interstate (US 93))
 - C. Broadband Internet access-it is available but expensive
 - D. The region is not well identified (i.e. Lakes Region, White Mountain region)-Capital Region is not descriptive of our area
 - E. 3 DOT districts
 - F. Zoning is a problem on Rt 28-limited curb cuts, no limited sewer and water across 28 topography, wetlands,
- 5 Assets
 - A. We have an elementary and middle/high school
 - B. Tax incentive zones – for businesses that want to improve and expand
 - C. We are applying for economic grants for funding various projects
 - D. High number of self-employed or home businesses
6. Action items
 - A. Visioning for Downtown (pending approval from Select Board)
 - B. Grant writing forum on April 16
 - C. Develop a strategy for a business plan for town owned properties
 - D. Claremont revitalized their town-could we have someone from Claremont come here to see how they can help us or give us some suggestions?
 - E. Can Pittsfield and surrounding towns benefit from a partnership
 - F. Contact state senators – can they help?

7. Future

- A. Spin off events from Balloon Rally
- B. Create small museums tied to anchor businesses
- C. Hospitality
- D. Microbreweries are drawing people, is there something like that, that we could do?
- E. Need visionary leadership
- F. Have a meeting of business leaders
 - 1. Create compelling agenda
 - 2. Have a specific timeline
 - 3. Find commonality-Why are they coming? (May have home businesses)
 - 4. Possibly get Rotary, Chamber of Commerce and EDC to be joint hosts

8. Next meeting will be April 6, 2016

9. Meeting closed at 8:25.

Submitted by

Ted Mitchell

Minutes taken by:

Ellen Barbasso, Secretary

DRAFT