

Town of Chesterfield Economic Development Committee

MINUTES December 11, 2014

Attendees

Bob Brockmann co-chair, , Mike Reed, Jon Starbuck, Don Brehm, Carol Pelczarski and Selectman Jon McKeon (arrived @ 6:50 pm).

Absent: Dutch Walsh co-chair

Also in attendance Town Administrator Rick Carrier

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

The minutes of November 13th were reviewed and approved as written.

Bob noted that NHMA legal had been contacted regarding the committee going into nonpublic session to assist businesses in purchasing property. NHMA's advice was that the committee could not go into nonpublic session for that purpose.

Bob suggested the committee include a report for the annual town report. Bob will work on a draft version.

Bob inquired if the committee should add known businesses to the home business list. There was discussion on how to expand the list to be more inclusive. Jon M provided an overview of the home based business ordinance and the advantage of home based businesses to sign up. The main advantage is that should the zoning ordinance change in the future affecting home based businesses, there will be documentation at the town office of the home based business's existence prior to the zoning change. Carol will be the coordinator of compiling the home based business list for the committee.

Committee members were asked if they had an opportunity from the last meeting to visit local businesses.

Jon S visited Perkins and contacted owner Peter Brady via email. He is waiting for a response on the questions the committee posed.

Don visited J&J and spoke with owner Kevin Rose. Kevin and his wife Deb purchased the property from her family and that is the reason they chose Chesterfield. They have been very happy with their interactions with the Town. They noted a little concern for the current sign ordinance.

Don also visited Ames Performance and spoke with owners Don Emery and Kevin Beal. They are very happy with their interactions with the Town. They chose Chesterfield to locate their business because they both came from town originally. They were planning to expand in 2015.

Carol visited Manny's Appliance and spoke with the manager. Carol noted the manager said internet speed was fine for the business. He spoke very highly of Duane. There was a problem with Code Enforcement when the store was first opening with signage.

Mike did not get a chance to visit Osterman Propane.

Bob visited Camper Warehouse. The owner reported he is happy with the town. He chose Chesterfield as he was familiar with the area and because of the proximity to I-91. Internet speed is fine for his business.

Bob also visited Pierre Saba, owner of Riverview Hotel, Riverside Plaza and Pierre's Place. Pierre chose Chesterfield through word of mouth. He was looking to open a business and someone told him that Riverside Plaza was for sale. He is happy with the town and internet speed is fine.

Jon contacted the owner of Pete's Tire Barn and is waiting for a call back.

Other businesses will be visited prior to next month's meeting for their feedback.

The next step for the committee is to create a webpage and a brochure. Mike will do an outline for a web page. Jon M suggested including testimonials from the businesses that were contacted on why they chose to locate to Chesterfield for their business and to live in town..

Carol asked the committee if a business get together was something the committee wanted to sponsor. The committee agree to pursue this and thought a good month to target would be May.

Next meeting will be January 15th at 6:30 pm. Items for discussion will be to finish the business list, outline for website, discuss the brochure, and discuss the EDC report for the town report.

With no other business, the committee adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by:
Rick Carrier