

# Town of Chesterfield Economic Development Committee

## MINUTES June 18, 2015

### Attendees

Bob Brockmann co-chair, Dutch Walsh co-chair, Jon Starbuck, Don Brehm, Judy Hueber, Mike Reed and Jon McKeon Selectmen's Rep.

Absent: none

Also in attendance: Brad Roscoe, Selectmen and Town Administrator Rick Carrier

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

The minutes of June 18<sup>th</sup> were reviewed and approved as written.

Jon M stated that there is nothing new to report GS Precision moving to Chesterfield. The Town has not heard anything back from Michael Bergeron from DRED. Jon M reported that Area 51 Fireworks is looking to make changes to their site plan and will be going back to the Planning Board for review.

Brad talked about his work on the status of high speed internet in town. He reported that he spoke with representatives from Fairpoint, Comcast, Argent and WiValley. Fairpoint is adding three distribution boxes in Spofford, which will increase speeds to those individuals and businesses in the vicinity of the new boxes. Fairpoint does not have plans to upgrade distribution boxes in Chesterfield or West Chesterfield at the present time. Comcast covers a small section of town near the Connecticut River and is not interested in expanding. Argent cover a lot of town. Their goal is to run fiber optic to the center of town by the end of the year. WiValley is a wireless company. They use towers to transmit their over the air signal. They are looking to put a transmitter on a tower in Westmoreland, owned by the State of Vermont, which will cover the northern and western part of town.

Dutch presented a map showing where the Fastroads high speed internet network covers in the state. He pointed out that they cover Keene & Swanzey, but does not cover Chesterfield. Dutch spoke with Kate Albert from WiValley and agreed with Brad that they are trying added to the tower in Westmoreland. Dutch feels the committee should invite Carol Miller from the State of NH, Kate Albert from WiValley and Tim Murphy from SWRPC to a meeting to discuss funding sources for bringing higher speed internet access to the town. The internet speeds needed today will seem antiquated five years from now.

The committee set their next meeting for Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm and Dutch will contact Carol Miller, Kate Albert and Tim Murphy to come to that meeting. Brad suggested Josh Goldberg and Kevin Bresland from the library be invited as well, as they have experience with internet speeds.

Judy left the meeting.

Dutch noted the committee needs to present our case to get additional fiber in town.

On the subject of the business meeting, Jon S talked with Sue Newcomer, who works for the Keene Chamber of Commerce. Businesses in Keene have an "After Hours" program, which is sponsored by the Chamber. Meetings run from 5:30 to 7:00 and attendance range from 45 to 200 people, normally around 80 to 90 people attend. Businesses take turns hosting the event. Sue Newcomer told Jon S she would come to a meeting to brainstorm with the committee.

Jon S suggested reaching out to several local businesses to see what they would like to see at a quarterly businesses meeting. Dutch suggested reaching out to sponsor the first event.

The committee would like the Selectboard to consider having a business listing on the town's website. Rick will put this item on the next Selectboard agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

Submitted by:  
Rick Carrier