

**Town of Boscawen
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Concord Makers Space-197 North Main St, Boscawen
Draft Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 4th, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Barbara Randall—Chair; John Porter—Vice Chair; Adele Sanborn; Jacob Martin; Mason Donovan—Alternate; Lorrie Carey—Ex-Officio

Staff Present: Kearsten O'Brien—Deputy Planning & Community Development Director and Kara Gallagher—Planning & Community Development Assistant

Guests Present: Vincent Pagano—Central NH Regional Planning Commission

Chair Randall opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

PCD Assistant Gallagher completed roll call.

Chair Randall made Mr. Donovan a voting member for this meeting.

Minutes:

Mrs. Sanborn motioned to accept the 03.07.23 draft minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Donovan. All in favor. None opposed.

Election of Committee Officers:

Mr. Donovan motioned to elect Barbara Randall as Chair. Seconded by Vice Chair Porter. All in favor. None opposed.

Mrs. Sanborn motioned to elect John Porter as Vice Chair. Seconded by Mr. Donovan. All in favor. None opposed.

New Business:

Concord Makers Space: Chair Randall introduced Sandra May from Concord Makers Space and thanked her for hosting tonight's meeting. Ms. May thanked the EDC for coming to her business. Chair Randall asked if Ms. May could speak a little about the business. She said Concord Makers Space is trying to be a place that builds community, lets people tap into their creativity, and foster businesses. They had looked for over a year before finding the location in Boscawen. They are very happy with the space, but certain sacrifices had to be made, including giving up a classroom. Instead, they are able to create a great woodshop area. They are hopeful to obtain an adjoining space in the future to have their classroom again. Ms. May said they currently have

four 3D printers for prototyping, and each serves a slightly different purpose. One prints in two colors of filament, one that prints in a large volume, one that is similar to an assembly belt, and a Form 3 that does prints out of resin. She said there are a couple of lasers, soon they will have a couple of textile machines and 2 CNC routers. They are still in the process of moving in and finding a home for everything. Mrs. Sanborn asked if Ms. May was familiar with Kentek, which is a laser protection company. Ms. May said she would look into their business. Chair Randall asked how the public could access these services. Ms. May said right now the Makers Space is strictly membership based at \$50/month with various discounts. She thinks that price will go up in the future due to upgrades and access. Eventually they would like to experiment with a day pass model. Concord Makers Space is run only by volunteers currently, but they just received grant funding for an employee. They implemented a reservation system during COVID that proved to work well. Many of their members come from a distance, so it is encouraged to reserve the machines in advance. Mr. Donovan asked if Concord Makers Space had ever done a repair workshop. Ms. May said they know of other Makers Spaces that have ongoing workshops, but they would need to build up a larger clientele in order to introduce something like that. Chair Randall asked if there are any limitations on membership. Ms. May said age is one limitation for safety reasons, but that is something that is judged on a case by case basis. Chair Randall asked if there is a plan for an Open House. Ms. May said they are hopeful to have a soft opening and then a grand opening.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies: Mr. Pagano said there are 3 projects on the Project Priority List for Boscawen that he would like to update: King Street upgrades, North Main Street Upgrades, and renovate 1913 Library. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien said the 1913 Library can be taken off. Mr. Pagano asked the EDC to gather some ideas for projects to be added. The next meeting for CNHRPC to create the new lists is May 1st. Mr. Pagano requested all updates be submitted by April 28th. Several suggestions were given at this time and discussion ensued. Mr. Donovan asked what the purpose of the CEDS was. Mr. Pagano said when grant money or congressional ear-marks become available, those who are in control of dividing it up can see the projects being proposed have planning behind them. Suggested projects to add to the list included public bus transportation, upgrades to the sewer infrastructure, and build a community center. Chair Randall suggested creating a document and having everyone add their suggestions. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien will create a survey for the EDC to vote on projects to add.

Old Business:

Fall Festival Update: Deputy PCD Director O'Brien and PCD Assistant Gallagher met with Ashley Bathgate at Avaloch recently to talk about setup and details of the Fall Festival. They discussed what areas would be available for tables, as well as a discussion on if businesses should bring their own card tables. It was decided that would be the way to go. They also discussed a location for the food trucks. The next step is to get the application for attendance made up and sent out to the businesses in town. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien will work on this. She's hoping to have the applications sent out before May. Vice Chair Porter asked if the event will be indoor/outdoor. Deputy PCD Director said yes and there is a place where a tent can be set

up. Mr. Donovan said the performance barn construction will be complete in June so that is another area to be utilized. Deputy PCD Director invited Ms. May to have a table for Concord Makers Space. Ms. May said that will be an event they'd love to be a part of.

Other Business:

Planning and Community Development Department Update: The Municipal Transportation Tax did not get approved at Town Meeting. This needs to be approached as a savings tactic for the future. This will be kept on the radar for next year's Town Meeting.

Mrs. Sanborn motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Martin. All in favor. None opposed.

The next meeting will be held on May 2nd, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Kara Gallagher.