

**Town of Boscawen  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
FINAL MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Barbara Randall—Chair; John Porter—Vice Chair; Michael Tardiff—Executive Director of Central NH Regional Planning Commission; Lorrie Carey —Ex Officio

**Members Excused:** Mason Donovan and Adele Sanborn

**Members Absent:** Caroletta Alicea

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

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

PCD Clerk Gallagher completed roll call.

**Minutes:**

**Vice Chair Porter motioned to accept the 07.13.22 draft minutes as presented. Seconded by Ex Officio Carey. All in favor. None opposed.**

**Old Business:**

**Economic Development Fair:** Chair Randall asked for more information on this event. There will be a volunteer booth at Old Home Day to pass along information about the fair. Chair Randall stated she will help with the booth to hopefully attract membership for this Committee as well as gather interest in the fair. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien would like to collect business cards from local businesses to display at the booth. At the last meeting the Committee discussed having the fair either at the Parks & Rec Movie Night in October or the Boscawen Elementary School Craft Fair in November. The general consensus was to tack the fair onto another event for the debut. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien suggested leaving this item on the agenda as a reminder for planning even if the event doesn't happen this year. Another idea was to see how the Parks & Rec Police vs. Fire Softball Game goes on August 19<sup>th</sup>. If it goes well, next year any business that donated to the game could set up a booth to showcase their business and bring activities for the kids. This could be a great way to raise more donations for the game and attract businesses to come to the fair. Vice Chair Porter asked if the Craft Fair was still an option. Chair Randall said it will all depend on if the school is able to open up without restrictions, and be able to use the gym and cafeteria at full capacity. Chair Randall is hopeful it will still happen. All agreed this would be the better event to piggyback off of since the October date will be coming up quickly.

*PBWP Update:* Members of the Committee attended the Penacook Boscawen Water Precinct meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Tardiff stated that he felt as though the meeting went very well. The PBWP Commissioners were very clear that they wanted to keep the Town and Precinct separate, but were willing to work on coming together to reach common goals for the future. There was discussion about potential grants that could benefit both entities, such as Merrimack County's ARPA Funds and grants from DES. The money from DES would be used for the Precinct to do pipe mapping but there is a match required. Ex Officio Carey thought maybe the County money could provide that necessary match. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien would like to reiterate to the Commissioners about how the Town can apply for grants on behalf of the Precinct. Members discussed potential projects that the Precinct will work on in the future and how this Committee could offer their assistance. The PBWP Commissioners spoke about their current project which is a new well site. It was stated that it would potentially be 3-5 years turnaround time for a new well. The Committee then discussed the King Street project that will be started in a few years and what that could mean for any maintenance to the water lines. Chair Randall would like to continue to invite Cheryl Mitchell to the EDC meetings to keep the line of communication open between the two entities. All concurred.

*Municipal Transportation Tax:* Vice Chair Porter brought this topic up at the last Agricultural Commission meeting to get the opinions of the Commissioners. The Commissioners are concerned that the farming community will be disproportionately taxed as there are some farms that register more than 20 vehicles. As of right now, the Commission is not in favor of adopting this tax. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien spoke with Town Clerk Nicole Hoyt who relayed the information that antique tractor plates were recently passed and those plates will be added into the exemption along with antique cars and motorcycles. The hope is this could potentially alleviate the tax for some vehicles that farmers would need to register. More information will be made available in the future. Mr. Tardiff asked if Town Clerk Hoyt could provide figures for the agricultural vehicles in town. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien will ask along with the total number of vehicles that are registered. Chair Randall said another option to consider is only applying \$2 or \$3 instead of the full \$5 tax. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien spoke with the Conservation Commission about the tax and no concerns were raised. She thought it was important to speak with all Committees and Commissions so that everyone will be on the same page. She thought the Energy Committee would be in favor as they are looking into EV Charging stations which this tax could be used for. She will bring it up to the Planning Board at their next meeting as well. Chair Randall asked to put this topic on all agendas for the next meetings and gather recommendations to be ready for the EDC October meeting. Once all Committees and Commissions have given their recommendations, this topic should be taken to the Select Board for further action.

### **Other Business:**

*2022 NH Clean Diesel Program:* Deputy PCD Director O'Brien received this information before the meeting and wanted to share it with the Committee. She thought this could be a way to use matching funds for potential EV Charging stations along King Street. This program gives 30% maximum grant funding towards a project and 70% is the minimum mandatory cost share by the

town. Mr. Tardiff said that 30%-70% is a hard match. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien asked if other grants could be used in combination with this program. Mr. Tardiff said typically no, but he will find out. Chair Randall said according to Ed Cherian, Chair of the Energy Committee, there will be 12 charging stations added at the Merrimack County Facilities.

**New Business:**

None.

**The next meeting will be held on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

**Ex Officio Carey motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Vice Chair Porter. All in favor. None opposed.**

*Respectfully submitted by Kara Gallagher.*