



Central/Southern NH Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Strategy Committee Meeting Meeting Notes

*Central NH Regional Planning Commission
Horseshoe Pond Place Community Center 26
Commercial Street, Concord, NH 03301
October 9, 2018 - 5:30 PM*

In attendance:

David Pierce, Town of Goffstown
Charles Albano, Town of Warren
Suzi Pegg, City of Concord
Jared Reynolds, University of New Hampshire
Cam Prolman, SNHPC
Matt Monahan, CNHRPC
Mike Tardiff, CNHRPC

- I. Introductions: The meeting opened at 5:35 PM. Introductions were made around the table with attendees introducing themselves and briefly indicating what community or organization they represent.

Mike Tardiff thanked everyone for attending, and noted there was no quorum for the meeting. Matt Monahan reviewed the agenda. Mike noted the importance of the CEDS as a tool for the region, and for municipalities' economic development work. A discussion ensued about local economic development efforts, including the creation of the Town of Warren's Economic Development Committee. Suzi Pegg stated that the CEDS is a good resource for communities in which economic development is stagnant, and can help decision-makers see the importance of an economic development strategy. Charles Albano and David Pierce noted that this has been a long and productive process. All participants noted that there is a demand for economic development services, notably technical assistance. Suzi also noted there is a need for helping communities understand what exactly "economic development" is, as many don't understand the concept. People need to understand there are no silver bullets and it takes time. David noted how the Town of Goffstown has been successful in utilizing different economic development tools locally. Mr. Pierce discussed how Goffstown has seen multiple properties utilize the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive (RSA 79E) to redevelop once unutilized properties into housing units and medical facilities, and other uses.

The utility of the CEDS was also discussed. It was noted by all that the CEDS not only contains projects, data, and useful SWOT feedback, but that it can also be used to show support for various projects. Mike noted that this can be especially useful when other grants of funding are sought as the CEDS can show: 1) prolonged planning; and 2) regional support for a local project. Charles noted that as a grant writer this is a very useful too.

The group discussed the next steps to becoming an Economic Development District (EDD) designated by the EDA. Mike Tardiff noted that the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Planning Commission conditionally approved the CEDS pending approval from the CEDS Committee, and stated the Central NH Regional Planning Commission will meet this week to adopt the CEDS. Mike indicated that staff from both RPCs will meet with the New England EDA representative to begin filling out the application to become an EDD.

The group agreed to have the CEDS Committee recommend the adoption of the CEDS by email, and that RPC staff will send out an email to Committee members requesting approval.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.