

FRYEBURG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

March 29, 2016, Fryeburg Town Office

In attendance: Janice Crawford - Interim Chair, David Chaffee, Donna Woodward, Nancy Kiesman, Rick Eastman – Selectman Chair, Jeff Cox – Selectman, Sharon Jackson – Town Manager, Mia Purcell – WMEDC Program Manager

Janice Crawford called meeting to order at 6 PM

Meeting minutes from February 22, 2016 were approved – Architect name correction made to meeting notes after they were approved and posted. Corrected meeting notes have been posted on the website.

Financial report – Janice Crawford suggested a budget be put together with appropriate items for the available funds.

Airport report – Sharon Jackson reported the budget has been presented to the Committee. Listen to tape for full report.

Brownfields Fund update – Sharon Jackson reported the Phase I evaluation was completed, awaiting review by the Selectmen.

Business Friendly Community Certification Update – Fryeburg has been designated a Business Friendly Community on the first round! Fryeburg is the first town in Oxford County to receive this honor. The Town will receive two signs to be presented at a press conference to be held at the Town Office. Date of press conference unknown at this time. The "Open for Business" signs will be posted at the gateways to our town. Code Enforcement Officer, Katie Haley, has drafted a profile of Fryeburg to be posted on the State of Maine Business Friendly starred map. The profile is to be reviewed and approved by the Committee and Selectmen before it is posted on the State website.

Janice Crawford asked Mia Purcell if there is a State strategic business plan to follow. The Ecology of Streets, Maine's Business Attraction strategy focuses on bike-able/walk-able streets and downtowns. Mia indicated there is no strategic plan per se from the State and referred the Committee to Maine and Company's website for information.

Maine Office of Tourism (MOT) conference report: Donna Woodward, Nancy Kiesman and Janice Crawford reported on the sessions they attended at the Governor's Conference on Tourism held at Sunday River in Bethel on March 21 and 22. An outline was presented by Donna Woodward and Nancy Kiesman on the following sessions attended: Maine Motorcoach Network, How to Apply for a Tourism Enterprise Marketing/Event Marketing Grant, Basic Social Media Adventure Travel, Social Media, Adventure Travel. Governor Paul LePage spoke at the luncheon awards ceremony followed by a presentation by keynote speaker, Roger Brooks on "The Seven Immutable Rules of Tourism". The final breakout session attended was also presented by Roger Brooks: More Immutable Rules.

Water District Report – Janice Crawford introduced the guest speaker, Mark Dubois, Poland Spring, certified geologist, to speak about Fryeburg's ground water. **Monitoring Report Summary** and **Fryeburg Water Company Proposed Agreement with Poland Spring** documents were provided as handouts. Mark presented a slide show explaining, in depth, the usage of ground water and its effects on Fryeburg and the rate payers of Fryeburg Water Company. There are 2 springs in this area, Evergreen Spring in Fryeburg and Cold Spring in Denmark. Poland Spring/Nestle Corporation have a \$500+ million investment in Maine with plants in Hollis, Kingfield and Poland Spring, owning 93 acres of land with 800 acres under conservation and watershed easement protection, protecting the lands around Maine aquifers. There are 4 geologists who measure all the well sites in the State of Maine. Maine's ground water resources are carefully monitored and regulated. Poland Spring is contracted through the Fryeburg Water Company and approved by the Maine Public Utilities Commission for 603,000 gallons annual usage of Fryeburg's ground water. Poland Spring 's usage is 50-60% of the allowable annual usage . Mark emphasized the point that the usage is ground water, not water out of the aquifer. The aquifer is not affected by the ground water usage which replenishes itself to 100% with just 4 inches of rain per year. Please refer to tape for full report.

Selectmen Chairman, Rick Eastman, inquired what the future is for Poland Spring should the Maine Judicial Court decide in favor of the proposed Fryeburg Water Company and Poland Spring 20-5-5-5-5 year contract. Mark informed the Committee a waste water system is paramount to bringing a water bottling plant to any community and possibly additional well sites. Mark reported rail transportation from Portland to Massachusetts, eventually into Connecticut, and, beginning in the next few weeks, rail transportation between Kingfield and Waterville could be a boon for freight transport.