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Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2025
Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH

Note: Minutes are not final until reviewed and approved by the Committee. Review and approval of minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee.

CALL TO ORDER:
The regular meeting of the Swanzey Economic Development Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Cathy Bergstrom.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Chair Cathy Bergstrom, JR Coughlin, Angelo Skip DiBernardo, and Gus Lerandeau were present.

ABSENT:
Greg Johnson, Hannah Maynard, and Selectman Jim Tempesta were absent.

ALSO PRESENT:
Mark Scalera, Planning Board member, was present.

MINUTES:
The Minutes of the EDAC meeting of June 9, 2025 were approved by consensus.

NEW BUSINESS:
Address by Skip DiBernardo, County Commissioner. DiBernardo described how the county functions with 23 delegates who have authority with three commissioners who represent portions of the county. There are 20 departments within the county, including Sheriffs [who may assist municipalities' Police Departments], Nursing Homes, Restorative Justice, Behavioral Health Court, Rail Trail, etc. There was a question of whether the county should assume responsibility for the maintenance of the Nursing Homes. Presently there are 400 people

working for the county. DiBernardo referenced a recent Sentinel piece which detailed one of the challenges faced by the county ambulance service. If a patient refuses transport, there is no means to recover fees for services provided to the patient prior to the transport refusal.

Regarding Rail Trail maintenance, DiBernardo mentioned this is a challenge. Bergstrom suggested that the municipalities in which the trails exist be responsible for routine maintenance. It's effective and efficient as each municipality has a DPW with the resources and expertise to address maintenance of the Rail Trail. It is more efficient than to expect a centralized organization to address the Rail Trail network throughout the county. Perhaps whatever monies within the county's budget are slated for Rail Trails can be allocated to each municipality for their maintenance efforts.

Planning Office Update. Bergstrom shared the Planning Office update.

Wetlands amendments are being discussed at a second joint meeting of the Planning Board and Conservation Commission on September 11 at 6 p.m. Some on the Planning Board find some proposed language regarding buffers to be limiting to property owners.

A rezoning proposal for some large parcels in North Swanzey will be discussed at the Planning Board meeting on September 25.

Assistant Town Planner Stephon Mehu is researching a solar ordinance. The objective is to make building ground mounted solar easier as a primary use.

Asher Construction amended their site plan to include a large gravel flex space to be used for mobile storage and extra parking. Industrial Park district.

Environmental Alternatives has received a site plan modification to enlarge a previously approved building [double the originally proposed size]. Business is doing well. Industrial Park district.

OLD BUSINESS:

Becoming Small Business Advocates. Following up on the discussion Bergstrom had with the Planning Board at their May 22 meeting, Bergstrom submitted the hyperlink suggestions to staff at Town Hall for consideration. Bergstrom met with Town Planner Adam Paquette on August 15 to discuss some inconsistencies in some decisions made by ZBA (approvals/denials). They also discussed some possible improvements to the Town website. Paquette indicated there is a group looking at the Town website for modifications.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Small Business. Bergstrom shared that she recently visited the newly opened business, Sparkle'N Greenz on Rte 10 in Swanzey. She spoke with the owners and learned that their

experience with the permitting process in Swanzey was efficient and pleasant. Bergstrom referenced the November 2022 letter EDAC submitted to the Planning Board supporting the revision of the Multi-Tenant Applicant Process, making it less cumbersome for businesses to move into a recently vacated space if there would be a less impactful use than what was previously there.

NEXT MEETING:
October 13, 2025

ADJOURNMENT:
Adjournment occurred by consensus at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Bergstrom, Chair