TOWN OF SWANZEY
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Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026
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, Greg Johnson, Gus Lerandeau, and Hannah Maynard were present.

ABSENT:
Asst Town Planner Stephon Mehu was absent.

ALSO PRESENT:
Selectman Bill Hutwelker and Jessica Sanchez were present.

MINUTES:
The Minutes of the EDAC meeting of February 9, 2026 were approved by consensus.

NEW BUSINESS:
EDAC Candidate. Jessica Sanchez was present expressing an interest in becoming a member of EDAC. She has served on the Governance Committee, and is serving as an alternate on the Zoning Board. She has lived in Swanzey since 2003.

Value of EDAC. Lerandeau motioned to discuss letter from EDAC to BOS. Seconded by Bergstrom. Lerandeau stated it was good to start the conversation with the BOS. Hutwelker provided a summary of his previously emailed response: that there is need for the Town to engage with EDAC with regularity and to seek input from EDAC. Hutwelker suggested EDAC coordinate publishing available commercial properties on the Town site. EDAC will work to meet with BOS on a quarterly basis. Hutwelker confirmed that the $10,000 EDAC budget was reallocated to a proposed audit to be done by SWRPC; total cost $15,000.

Planning Office Update. Bergstrom shared what was provided by Planning Office. Site Plan review application submitted on behalf of A&O Canine Co to operate a dog daycare and kennel. No issues with the application per the Planning Office.

Zoning Audit proposed by SWRPC.

Solar farms by airport have been approved.

Business in Swanzey/Ribbon Cutting. Hutwelker has talked with owner of Gridiron, Ryan Avery, about a possible ribbon cutting. Avery is receptive. EDAC will work to coordinate this event; possibly May 2026.

OLD BUSINESS:

Presence at Swanzey Old Home Day. Bergstrom has secured space in the Kids Zone through Parks & Recreation. She has talked with Jocelyn Goldblatt, Exec Dir, Cheshire Children's Museum, about providing a child-friendly activity. They will bring supplies and equipment for children to make their own jump ropes. EDAC will work to cover the cost of the staff from the Museum. Hutwelker indicated the Town may be able to waive the stall fee.

West Swanzey Water & Sewer Project. Meeting on March 19.

Welcome Gifts. Bergstrom reviewed previous discussion on providing a welcome gift to new homeowners in Swanzey. She has already reached out to several small businesses in town, and several are receptive to contributing (i.e. discount coupons).

On-the-Job Training Program Template. Bergstrom met with Riley Coleman, Powers Guaranteed Services, to understand the parameters of their program. She is planning to work to create a template that may be used in companies throughout Swanzey, aimed at providing opportunities for high school students who may not plan on attending college.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Brand of Swanzey. Sanchez asked if Swanzey has a brand. Hutwelker stated it's known for its "rural character." If EDAC were to sell products at Old Home Day, what is the Town's brand?

NEXT MEETING:
April 13, 2026

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

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Bergstrom, Chair