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Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 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 take place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of EDAC.

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, Sly Karasinski, Hannah Maynard, and Jessica Sanchez were present.

ALSO PRESENT:
Selectman Jim Tempesta and resident Christina Apgar were present.

ABSENT:
Greg Johnson was absent.

MINUTES:
The Minutes of the EDAC meeting of July 13, 2026 were approved unanimously by a motion by DiBernardo, second by Karasinski.

NEW BUSINESS:
Feedback from Swanzey Old Home Day. Estimates of 300+ attendees at the event. The EDAC booth partnering with the Children's Museum and Gathering Waters saw several children enjoying the make-your-own jump rope activity.

Bergstrom had distributed the list of suggestions which surfaced during the festival in July. Keep Swanzey *Swanzey*, NOT Keene—Bergstrom stated that there is most likely consensus that this means maintaining the small-town charm and resisting a big-city atmosphere. Apgar offered that it would be helpful to keep taxes low and keep the homeless out.

More Restaurants and Cafes/Coffee Shops—Bergstrom noted there are a few [Jimmy's Hometown Pizza, Papagallo's, The Dinner Table and Mama McDonough's Irish Pub; Nordshire Farm and Dunkin]. Maynard asked Tempesta if he could identify possible barriers to restaurant owners opening in Swanzey. Lack of a grocery store was noted, as well as lack of a water line down Route 10. Tempesta mentioned the importance to Swanzey of securing the water company in West Swanzey. The ad hoc committee considering options will be meeting August 27.
Pickleball—The Fieldhouse at Homestead Mills offers pickleball. Karasinski mentioned Brown Field as a possible option in the future if clean up of the site is realized. Cody Morrison of MEDC has mentioned possible grant funding for this initiative. Tempesta stated his support for a grant writer on staff in Swanzey. There was discussion about possible alternatives: Keene State College students taking grant writing courses may offer time to Swanzey; seek assistance from Cheshire County grant expert, Suzanne Bansley; post on Swanzey social media/website seeking a grant writing volunteer. Bergstrom indicated she will contact KSC. Tempesta indicated he will see about posting for a volunteer on Town social media.
Lights at Outdoor Basketball Court—owned by SAU29, so the Athletic Director would be able to offer insight if the Town were interested in having this discussion.

The committee discussed improving communication throughout the town to provide exposure for the resources available (i.e. restaurants, activities, etc.). Tempesta talked about promoting the official opening of the new Swanzey Fire Station (expected in October). Parking may be at an alternate location [airport, MRHS] with shuttles running to/from the Fire Station.

Tempesta spoke of a challenge in Swanzey: appealing to recruits to serve on the Swanzey Police Department and the Swanzey Fire Department. There was discussion about housing being a factor.

Town Planning Office Update. Mehu provided a written summary of several initiatives presented by Bergstrom.

A. EZ-Crete—expanding storage space at facility owned by Baylev Holdings located at 126 Monadnock Highway. Moving forward with proposed expansion. Public hearing continued to the next Planning Board meeting.
B. Lawrence Land Surveying—property of Richard Whitney. Minor subdivision [three single-family lots] proposed on Rabbit Hollow Road. Selectboard approved proposal of 1,000 feet of Class VI road to be improved to Class V road at owner's expense.
C. Goodell Ave Boundary Line Adjustment—property owners Chad & Alice Fontaine and Deborah Hamel proposed a 'housekeeping' boundary line adjustment for properties located at 102 and 110 Goodell Avenue. The proposal seeks to correct the boundary line in the town records.
D. Environmental Alternatives Inc (Safford Drive) and Dillant-Hopkins Airport—meeting with the Planning Board to discuss possible site plan modifications. Karasinski suggested inviting the Swanzey rep on the Airport Committee to a future EDAC meeting. Bergstrom asked for clarification on EAI's location and scope of work. Karasinski indicated they used to be on Whittemore Farm Road, but now are on Safford Drive. They focus on decontamination services. The lab/water analysis business is now Nelson Analytical Lab located on Monadnock Highway in North Swanzey.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town-wide Activities. Bergstrom referenced a previous discussion regarding coordinating more town-wide events/activities, like outdoor plays or film nights. Karasinski shared that there is live music this Friday at the Potash Bowl. Sanchez noted that the information for these events (Fridays in the summer) is hard to find and often posted online at the last minute. Bergstrom asked if there's a good place to screen a film. Apgar mentioned that *The Old Homestead* film was remastered at Keene State College and available for screening. The play was written by Swanzey resident Denman Thompson in 1915. Bergstrom stated that she has a contact at KSC and would reach out to learn of the film's availability.

OTHER BUSINESS:

***Open Seat on EDAC.** Subsequent to Gus Lerandeau's resignation from EDAC last month, the Selectboard appointed Sly Karasinski to fill the open seat. [*Not discussed at this meeting; making note of it for the record.]

Joint Meeting/Ordinance Discussion. There haven't been any updates to date on the progress of this. The next joint meeting of the Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, and EDAC is scheduled for September 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Communication Among Boards/Committees. Sanchez mentioned that she sits on EDAC and the Planning Board and the Governance Committee, and all the boards/committees seem to operate in a silo. Bergstrom stated that she approached the Planning Board on behalf of EDAC about collaborating. The Planning Board is receptive. EDAC needs to determine how to effectively collaborate and on what specific initiatives to focus.

NEXT MEETING:

September 14, 2026

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjournment occurred by consensus at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Bergstrom, Chair