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Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 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, and Jessica Sanchez were present.

ALSO PRESENT:
Deb Johnson, Owner, She Shed.

ABSENT:
Greg Johnson and Hannah Maynard were absent.

MINUTES:
The Minutes of the EDAC meeting of September 14, 2026 were approved unanimously by a motion by DiBernardo, second by Karasinski.

NEW BUSINESS:
Small Business Promotion. Deb Johnson, owner of The She Shed, addressed the committee. We discussed creating brochures identifying small businesses in Swanzey. Expense covered by businesses or EDAC? Need to contact business owners to gauge interest. Possibly include a map of Swanzey with business locations and sites/attractions noted (i.e. plumber, realtor, electrician, retail, restaurant, schools, covered bridges). Discussed distribution methods—town-wide mailing, place in businesses and Town Hall foyer. Utilize social media. Discussed the need to update the list of businesses on the Swanzey website.

Welcome Bags. Discussed practicality of creating this gift for homeowners new to Swanzey (60+/- each year). Possibly include Town Hall directory, discount coupons from local businesses, small gifts (soaps, candles, etc.) from local businesses, and the small business brochure.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town-wide Activities. Discussed possibility of partnering with the Potash Bowl restoration group to organize a screening of the film *The Old Homestead*. Question was raised whether the Swanzey Library screens films. The Mt. Caesar Public Library screens movies for families almost monthly at no cost to attendees.

Joint Meeting/Ordinance Discussion. There was discussion on whether the revised language in the ordinance is easily understood. That is one of the goals of the audit. If anyone has any additional input regarding the ordinance audit, submit to Adam Paquette, Town Planner.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Community Conversations. Sanchez mentioned that she attended the event recently. The initiative coming out of that is development of a newsletter, similar to Swanzey Uncovered. This will include updates and Parks & Rec event information, etc. Distribution vehicle hasn't yet been determined (i.e. email, hardcopy, Swanzey website, social media). The question was raised regarding what party is responsible for updating. Not yet determined.

Manufacturing Support. Bergstrom brought up the idea of supporting small manufacturing business in Swanzey with a contribution to their apprenticeship programs. This would be dependent on EDAC's budget being restored above $0. There was discussion about the possibility of helping coordinate a career day event at MRHS.

NEXT MEETING:

November 9, 2026

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjournment occurred by consensus at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Bergstrom, Chair