



Economic Development Committee Meeting

Minutes - Draft

Wednesday July 12, 2023

Town Hall, 18 Depot Hill Rd., Henniker

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Members: Mark Mitch – Chair, Kris Blomback, Shelbie Connor-excused, Robert Pagano, Jeff Morse, Paula Amato, Alternates: Scott Osgood, Lori Marko -excused

Staff: Mark Fougere Planner

Agenda

1. Broadband Update: Rob Pagano noted that RFP's have been issued to find providers to serve the "last mile" of residents in Henniker who lack service/low quality services.
2. CEDS Update – Wastewater; no update on this matter.
3. Solar PILOT request; Kris Blomback noted that a solar provider had appeared before the BOS to request a PILOT program, which is allowed under a new state statute. The request was tabled, and more information requested. The project itself was approved by the Planning Board earlier this year for the lumber mill on Old Concord Road. Kris expressed concerns relative to the loss of land for potential future industrial development along with the tax revenue that could be generated for the town. Others had similar concerns, as well as the future viability of the solar project itself. Mark reminded the Committee that the project would benefit an existing business in the community.
4. Goals for 2023? Please bring ideas. No new matters were raised.

5. NEC: Paula noted that their nursing program is doing very well, with many new applicants applying for admission. Many of these students are looking for second careers or have a lower degree and are looking to increase their learning. This new program has been a great success for the school. In addition, the school has added a football team and is reviewing options of where to host games. The school had to downscale their planned gym expansion and will limit the proposed work to renovation and new sports office space.
6. Potential speakers: Bringing in speakers representing local businesses to update the group of was supported by the Committee; but it was suggested that it be limited to once or twice a year.
7. NHDOT met w/BOS June 20th relative to Old Concord/202; Kris briefed the Committee on DOT's presentation to the BOS, this project is gaining momentum. Additional public hearings will be held. At this time signal improvements are estimated to cost \$2 million, a roundabout \$3 million and a full overpass is estimated to cost \$20 million which would include the loss of Dunkin Donuts and may also include some campground land. Many on the Committee do not want to see a signal at this intersection nor do they support a roundabout. The preferred solution is an overpass or nothing at all.
8. BOS expanded EDC with two resident positions.

NEXT MEETING: September 13, 2023.