

January 18, 2018

Whitefield Economic Development Committee

Minutes of Meeting January 18, 2018

Participants –Tony Marple, Bill McKeen, Karl Richards, Louis Sell, Steve Sheehy, Harriet Vaughn

The committee met with Ellis Percy regarding his interest in attracting new economic entities to the site he owns on Howe Road. The site is potentially well situated for economic development since it is located close to the Route 17 corridor and has access to three-phase electric power. The committee discussed in a general way possible tax and town regulatory implications for such a development. The committee also expressed a willingness to help in any realistic way it could, possibly including consideration of a TIF (Tax Incentive Financing) at an appropriate time, publicity through a newsletter article, and a meeting aimed at attracting other potential entrepreneurs who might have an interest in the site.

-- Internet Connectivity

The committee agreed unanimously to recommend to Selectmen that the town rely on its own resources to negotiate a new cable franchise agreement and that it not seek to engage the services of a consultant to handle the negotiations. Karl Richards will contact Sewall to ask whether it would be willing to provide, on a contingency basis, a limited amount of assistance, in case specific questions arose where this would be helpful. Negotiations will be handled by an ad hoc group consisting of Karl Richards, Louis Sell, and Steve Sheehy. Committee members will brief Selectmen on this decision and seek their support for objectives to be pursued in a new negotiation.

Branding and Community Outreach

Bill McKeen updated the committee on the Whitefield informational brochure he is putting together. Bill will be including an article in an upcoming Whitefield newsletter, seeking volunteers to help in the project. He has already found someone to create the map which will be at the center of the brochure

Select Board Liaison

Tony Marple and Karl Richards will continue to pursue possibilities for a cell phone tower in Whitefield.