

Glen
Holly

**Notes of meeting with the
Fryeburg Board of Selectmen
&
members of the
Fryeburg Business Association
January 9, 2014**

6:00 PM - We started the meeting and we went around the room to introduce ourselves. I started Glen Holmes, Director of the Western Maine Economic Development Council. Present were Town manager Sharon Jackson along with all three Selectmen Tom, Paul and Rick and from the Fryeburg Business Association Director Donna Woodward and 2 members Mike and Holy.

I started by laying a few ground rules for the meeting and explaining that I would control the tempo and try to keep everyone focused on the topic at hand. I was not there to talk about old issues or community problems that we could not find common ground and positive direction. I also explained to the audience that I would determine the amount of input and interaction they would have again as I was here to move things forward and not re hash issues.

I also asked both sides to start from a response of yes. I wanted everyone to find ways to move ideas forward fully understanding that as a group we may eventually find hurdles or walls that could not be overcome however we would brain storm together and come to that together.

The starting point was two sided in my view first how do we lower taxes by creating economic development without giving the town away and the second how do we provide a better environment for the current businesses that will help them grow.

Ideas that were raised during the meeting were as follows: (this is not an all inclusive list just the ones I had time to jot down)

1. A guide to doing business in Fryeburg.
 - a. A great deal of this was already completed by the town and will be expanded on jointly between the Town & FBA
2. A desire to invite Mt. Washington Valley organizations to the table along with those in the Bridgton area.
 - a. The group agreed we would need at least another meeting before taking this step.
3. How can we all work with Code Enforcement to better educate the businesses as to what needs to be done and how can we help Code Enforcement to be able to provide more and better information.
4. Recognition program for new Businesses to help them get more press and to reach out and make them welcome.
 - a. Town currently does this in a manner this would place a higher profile
5. Frequently asked Question Section on the Towns web page
 - a. FBA will work to create questions as well as answers and work with the Town to add to the page.
6. Down Town Sewer – this was identified as a real issue for expanding this area as currently town sewer does not exist.

7. Expanding the commercial area out away from the current downtown with a clear plan to enhance and not take away from the existing downtown.
 - a. Comprehensive Plan is being worked on and this would need to be considered in that plan to move forward.
8. Creation of an industrial Park
9. Work more closely and have an FBA presence on the 113 Corridor Committee.
10. Tax Increment Financing District

To summarize the meeting it went very well both groups brought good ideas and everyone agreed another meeting was required to take the next steps. Some items were agreed to be worked on between now and then as noted above. I was very impressed with the way everyone participated including the residents that attended. I look forward to keeping this moving forward.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 20th at 6:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Glen E. Holmes
Director
Western Maine Economic Development Council