

Focus and strengthen
North Country Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee Meeting
MINUTES
January 12, 2018
Littleton Regional Healthcare, Littleton NH

In attendance: Ben Amsden, Steve Knox, Anne Duncan Cooly, Miguel Moralez, Chris Thayer, Troy Merner, Mike Scala, Chuck Henderson, Stuart Arnett, George Hunton

NCC Staff: Michelle Moren-Grey, Glenn Coppelman

Meeting called to order at 10:02am by NCC Staff Michelle Moren-Grey

Roundtable introductions were made by attendees.

Acceptance of Minutes: November 9, 2018 Minutes. Motion by Mike Scala to accept the Minutes as written, seconded by Steve Knox. Passed unanimously.

Review of CEDS – Discussion – Stu Arnett – Michelle Moren-Grey

Michelle Moren-Grey reminded the committee that over the last month they have had opportunity to review and comment on the majority sections of the CEDS and today the final sections SWOT and strategic action plan will be reviewed.

Review of SWOT

The committee was also reminded that at the November meeting the draft SWOT was reviewed their comments were incorporated.

Overall Comments – Chris Thayer commended the outdoor recreation section could be elaborated on with the inclusion of new opportunity and infrastructure such as trails – this will be updated in the 2019 update. General comment about infrastructure section – potentially addition of utilities, rail, medical, social services air. Thoughts for 2019 update.

In addition the Outdoor recreation and natural resource section is light for example connecting natural resources to forest region and tourism better. Thoughts for 2019 update.

Review of Strategic Action Plan & Evaluation

Discussion

2. Communication Infrastructure – the committee discussed changing Communications Infrastructure to Communications Networks because when you think about infrastructure what comes to mind is bridges, roads etc. however there are specific hard infrastructure considerations in communication also.
4. Connectivity of communities into a greater whole – discussion that it is not just connectivity it is fostering collaboration and corporation. **CHANGE** – connectivity and corporation of communities into the greater whole.
3. Smart, safe, desirable housing – discussion what does smart housing mean? Possibly clarify this – **CHANGE** Availability of variety of creative housing options that are safe, diverse and desirable.

Action Items future update be more specific with outcomes.

CHANGE – wording in areas to include communities, businesses and non-profits

4. **CHANGE** – Host workshops highlighting resources, best management practices and success stories that develop a sense of place. Discussion developing a sense of place – cultural, events supported development at regional level. 2019 update to be more qualitative.

5. **CHANGE** – Focus/Strengthen on trailing edge communities. Discussion regarding supporting engagement with these communities.

The committee was reminded that this draft of CEDS is a step closer to a widely usable document for the future and work will continue in 2019.

Adoption of the CEDS: Motion by Steve Knox to adopt the CEDS with edits discussed, seconded by Beno Lamontagne passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 12:00PM