



North Country Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee Minutes

Friday, February 17, 2023 at 10 AM

Remote attendance ONLY due to inclement weather via Zoom (w/video and phone options)

Link to Recording: [Zoom Meeting 2-17-2023](#)

Staff: Glenn Coppleman, Kaela Tavares, Courtney Bowler, Stacey Doll

Committee & Guest Attendance: Harrison Kanzler (AHEAD), Ben Amsden (NHCF), Benoit Lamontagne (BEA), Erica Canales (CEDC), Chris Thayer (AMC), Chuck Henderson (Sen. Shaheen's office), Anne Duncan-Cooley (GRDC), Jeremy Knowlton (WMSI), Julie Evans (Northern Forest Center), Kathleen Kopp (WEDC), Mike Carmon (WMSI), Peter Corey (NCIC), Sarah Young-Knox (Town of Albany), Steve Knox (Town of Albany), Miguel Moralez (SBA), Tim Josephson (UVLSRPC), Misty Singsigalli (USDA RD),

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kaela Tavares opened the meeting at 10:06 am.

Roll call & Introductions- completed as listed above.

2. Approval of Minutes: December 9, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted made by Harrison Kanzler, seconded by Peter Corey. No discussion.

Minutes approved unanimously.

3. 2023-2028 CEDS Development: Presentation of Draft CEDS for discussion, Committee comments, and vote on acceptance by Committee (led by NCC staff)

- a. Stacey presented PowerPoint highlighting major changes and updates to the 2023 CEDS update and the interweaving of North Country Rising plan with CEDS identified goals. [LINK TO PRESENTATION](#)
- b. Kaela spoke on how the goals of this strategy were identified to be broader scope but with specific action items. Shared generalized comments and potential changes to CEDS for final draft. [Combined 2023 CEDS Comments.pdf](#)
- c. Opportunity for present members to voice additional comments:
 - i. Erica Canales- good start to continue to evolve the previous version of the CEDS goals to remain updated with the changing needs of the region while keeping the old goals interwoven.
 - ii. Harrison Kanzler- good job looking at the whole economic system of the region. Connecting workforce to housing has been a challenge, and the CEDS as presented has done well to approach the issue with strategic actions. Spoke to the concept of Smart Growth with regional towns; specifically referenced parking lot arrays (2 spaces for 1 car).
 - iii. Glenn, on behalf of Benoit- general comment to striking the balance between promoting economic development and preserving natural resources, discussion of last meeting was heavily weighted toward natural resources concerns.

- iv. Anne Duncan-Cooley- Raises concern that there needs to be more southern Grafton county representation of economic development. Particularly that southern Grafton county does not identify with the North Country character.
- v. Peter Corey- Spoke to recreation/tourism as important component to healthy economy, but also needs to incorporate light industry development. Referenced resources that are not being utilized effectively in Northern NH; improve access of smaller towns to resources to better serve smaller communities that are struggling more than larger HUB communities.
- vi. Chuck Henderson- adding to smaller towns point, not having access to funding and other resources. Shared in the chat: Shaheen CDS: The video recording of the February 15, 2023, webinar, “How to Submit a Congressional Direct Spending Request” is now available at this YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mm1EwUXyH6g> (Duration: 52:12)

Motion from Harrison to accept the CEDS drafts with proposed potential changes and submit to Commissioners for adoption, 2nd from Erica. No further discussion. Passed unanimously.

4. 2023 Meeting Schedule: New Standing Meeting Date (finalizing)

- a. Kaela explained that the previous effort to select new standing meeting date was unsuccessful, she would follow up with another polling effort via email.

5. Participant Share Out

- a. Kathleen Kopp: Working on industrial park, phase 1 completed and moved on to phase 2. Seeking guidance on this project that is fast moving. Working with NCIC.
- b. Erica Canales: Effort being done on “ski train” Montreal to Boston. Stop in Berlin, but potential additional stop in Stratford. Balsams development is part of that conversation.
- c. Kaela: NBRC grants are coming out soon, but making the plug for any potential projects and will send email with additional information. Balsams just started doing public hearings on the ski trail development, next month or two CCPB looking to vote on the project.
- d. Glenn Copleman: NBRC Grants- Arnett Group may be an option for applicants to have technical support in application process. Shared intake form in the chat: <https://nbrc-nh.com/>.

6. Adjournment: Kaela thanked the members for their attendance and participation. Meeting adjourned at 11:55.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Bowler

APPROVED 4/21/2023