

Notes From Economic Planning Meeting

May 9, 2019

Attendees: David Apgar, Elbridge Cleaves, Judy Cleaves, Carolyn Fickett, Barry Gillis, Mitch Lansky, Mike McVicker, Jackie Morse, Jill Plummer, Wayne Smith, Peggy White, Dwayne Young

Started the meeting with a review of April 12, 2019 meeting. Basically, we need a clearer picture of where we want to go.

Goal One: COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE COMMUNICATE!!

We need a strong hub for communication. Visitor information hub is essential.

Wayne suggested that Denise, who was Recently elected president of the Chamber of Commerce, would be willing to keep a Calendar of events and update as needed.

Each organization, club, group, school, businesses, newspaper, town offices, etc.

Need to be linked in to fill a glaring communication gap at present.

Several suggested a secure facebook page is the way to go. Others mentioned that Not everyone uses facebook, or is even computer literate. We would really like to be Able to reach any and all who wish to be in the loop.

Discussion about various communities in our planned area that do not have good Electronic coverage.

High Speed internet is critical, especially if we wish to attract those from "away" to be Able to telecommunicate.

Goal Two: Consolidate by grouping the 20 points revealed from our April 12th meeting.

Goal Three: Define the project goals and objectives. Momentum is critical for success. It is The number 1 thing to start with.

Goal Four: What area is or should be included in this project?

Keep in mind that our county line can be an asset or hindrance.

Perhaps three (3) counties would be better by including Drew.

Recognize that Danforth is the service center for our area.

Should Reed, Drew, and Wytopitlock be thought of as one instead of three communities? Consensus that Drew should be included with us. Assets in all parts of the 280,000 acres (plus or minus) need to be considered.

Goal Five: Quality of life issues. How can we in the “sticks” compete with other communities?
Affordable housing, health care, good educational programs, recreational and social
Activities, physical safety, basic rights are all issues to consider.

Goal Six: What is the future of tourism? What “branding” should we use to capture attention
To our area.

Goal Seven: Work force training in all areas of employer needs. Small business foundations.
Educational basics for industrial arts, business, Home economics, and one-on-one
communication.

Goal Eight: Sustaining and improving basic infrastructure. The only population growth is in
Old People. How do we make that work for us? How do we attract and keep our young
People?

Goal Nine: Outdoor recreation plan. Priorities and funding needs to be researched.

Goal Ten: Control our tax burdens.

Goal Eleven: Include the thoughts and ideas of industry in all our discussions and decisions.

Goal Twelve: Consider our farm and agricultural initiatives and expand upon those.
Include Forestry collaboration . Conservation. Hunting and Fishing. Diversity.
Connect with assets outside of our region.

Each of us should be considering our strengths and weaknesses as we try to get our arms
around all that needs to be done. We must work collaboratively and as a team. However, we
must be willing to take sections of the economic plan and work on those in small teams to
accomplish more in less time. Remember “branding” and the best way to accomplish that
task. Consider the items listed here and consolidate for more efficiency.

Next meeting with state reps on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at the Danforth Town Hall at
3:00 p.m.