

Town of Rindge
Located in Southwest New Hampshire

Economic Development Committee

Strategy & Plan
December 13, 2006

A. Economic Development Purpose:

Mission Statement:

To retain, expand, assist and attract businesses to Rindge consistent with the Town's master plan and adopted ordinances, resulting in jobs and tax base growth.

Vision Statement:

To achieve a sustainable economic base in the Town of Rindge - our plan is to encourage a mix of small business, professional services, and light industry. In addition, we will work to identify retail and commercial opportunities and further expand the educational industry within our community. We will promote a proactive approach toward the growth and enhancement of business opportunities for local residents, and encourage outside investment that leads to improved commerce for the Town of Rindge. This will be accomplished while recognizing the balance between our natural resources and rural characteristics, which make Rindge a wonderful area for its business community and residents.

B. Economic Picture:

Recently, the Town of Rindge has grown faster than its' historic norm, the abutting towns and Cheshire County. Much of this growth began with the rerouting of Route 202 away from the Town Center. Six of the top ten businesses located in Rindge, due to this rerouting.

Rindge, a community located in southwest New Hampshire, with a low tax structure, is an ideal location for new investment. We are situated at the base of Mount Monadnock, with plenty of open spaces and natural resources. In addition, we are an educational community, home to Franklin Pierce College, which offers a wide variety of activities and cultural events.

Per the 2000 census, the population of Rindge is approximately 4,360 (excludes the students at Franklin Pierce College). Given the current growth rate and patterns, by 2020 the population should increase about

31% to almost 5,728. The non-residential population at Franklin Pierce College, including the students, faculty and staff (approximately 2,000 additional people) also impacts the economics of our community and must be included in the overall economic picture of Rindge. The residents and non-residents combine to make Rindge a thriving commercial community.

Rindge has had and continues to have the highest residential growth rate of any town in southwest New Hampshire. In the 5 years following 1998, there were nearly triple the number of building permits issued compared with the previous 5 year period.

The property tax burden for Rindge falls heavily on the residential sector. Over the next year(s), this committee will focus their efforts to reduce the tax burden on local residents. This will be accomplished by encouraging the type of existing and new business investment, which will assist in stabilizing the tax rate within the Town.

The improved highway systems have provided employment opportunities and market potential within the Boston-Worcester and Manchester-Nashua area. As a border community, Rindge provides unique opportunities for business development within all aspects of commerce.

C. Goals & Objectives:

- To promote a positive business climate that positions the Town as a business friendly community with a superior quality of life.
- To create employment opportunities geared toward the local labor force.
- To expand and diversify the tax base.
- To work proactively to support existing businesses, and to encourage the development and expansion of efforts that further enhance the business community.
- To attract new commerce that meets social, environmental and economic objectives consistent with the Town's master plan and zoning requirements.

D. Economic Development Strategy:

The Town of Rindge is well positioned for the future – with the potential growth within the commercial districts along routes 119 & 202; the growth and development of Franklin Pierce College; and its' close proximity to employment opportunities within the major market areas of Boston, Worcester, Manchester, and Nashua.

A list of action items the committee will strive to undertake within the next 12 – 18 months includes:

- Database development:
 - Of existing businesses within the Town, this database will include - contact information, type of business, employment levels, and other pertinent business information
 - Of available commercial buildings and space within the Town
 - Of available commercial sites within the Town
- Develop and implement an Ambassador Program – a visitation program focused on the business community
- Work cooperatively with Franklin Pierce College to enhance business development opportunities
- Develop a cooperative relationship with Monadnock Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)
- Develop and implement an Economic Impact Study that analyzes commercial development and tax rate
- Develop and implement a marketing program of available buildings & sites
- Explore the feasibility of a Corporate Park within the Town
- Work to improve infrastructure issues such as broadband/telecommunications, etc. within the Town
- Explore the potential creation of a Local Development Corporation
- Work cooperatively with the Town's Planning Board in the development of the Economic Development chapter of the Master Plan – utilizing community forums to secure input from the overall community
- Work to further develop the Town's business districts consistent with the Town's Master Plan
- Work to develop the industrial property vacated by Famm Steel