

Town of Allenstown -Economic Development
16 School Street, Allenstown NH 03275
August 12, 2026

Call to Order

The Allenstown Economic Development Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Frascinella on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 @6:36 pm.

Mike Frascinella begins the Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call

- Members: Mike Frascinella-Elizabeth Joyce-Peter DeSantis
 - Guest: Scott McDonald
-

Old Business

McDonald's Opening reviewed by Mike

- McDonald's officially opened on **July 15, 2026.**
- A welcoming committee included:
 - Scott McDonald
 - John Childs, Selectmen's representative
 - Fire Chief
 - Police Chief
 - Firefighters
 - Chad Pellicer and members of the Highway Department
- Town representatives welcomed Mike Ambino, owner, and Jeremy Hinton, Director of Operations for the New England stores.
- McDonald's recently held a community outreach event and distributed backpacks to local children.
- The business has hired **more than 35 employees**, providing local employment opportunities.
- The restaurant operates approximately **5:00 a.m. to midnight.**
- The property now provides additional taxable value to the Town.
- The restaurant may also generate additional meals and rooms tax revenue for the Town through state distributions. Scott explained how that process works.

Farmer's Market Craft Fair reviewed by Mike

- The Committee has not received an update from Crystal regarding the Farmer's Market Craft Fair.
- Crystal has been occupied with establishing her sober house and has limited availability.
- The possibility of changing the Committee meeting night was discussed if the current schedule creates a conflict.
- Due to the loss of July and August, the Committee agreed that there is no longer sufficient time to organize the event for this year.
- **Farmer's Market Craft Fair will be removed from the 2026 agenda.**

Proposed Community Events and Recreation Committee reviewed by Mike

Committee Proposal

- Peter DeSantis previously presented an initial proposal for a new committee.
- The proposal was expanded to include information from the Town's website and previous EDC responsibilities.
- The proposed committee would include:
 - A mission statement.
 - Community initiatives formerly handled by the EDC when no other committee was available.
 - **Five resident members**, appointed on a staggered basis.
 - Potential future involvement of a Parks Director.
 - Authority to propose an annual budget.
 - Authority to spend funds in accordance with Town purchasing policies.
 - Preparation of an annual report.
 - Election/appointment of officers.
 - Members serving without compensation.
- The Board has approved publicizing the effort to attract interested residents.
- Once interested residents are identified, the group will be able to discuss and establish its own mission, goals, and direction.

Recruitment reviewed by Peter

- A Facebook announcement has already been posted to several local groups.
- The Committee discussed having John post a general notice on the Town website and/or Town news panel.
- The notice should remain general and should not present the current proposal as a finalized set of requirements.
- Interested residents may contact Committee members for additional information.
- Approximately **four people have expressed interest**; the goal is to attract at least eight interested residents.
- Liz suggested an informal information or "meet and greet" session may be held once additional names are collected.

AES Building / Recreation Facilities reviewed by Peter

Facility Maintenance

- Discussion included the transition of facility maintenance responsibilities as the Town moves into the AES building.
- The goal is to allow the facility supervisor to handle more maintenance and routine building inspections, reducing the workload on the Town Administrator.
- Several recent building maintenance issues were discussed, including plumbing and condensate drainage concerns.

Gym Improvements

- Fluorescent lighting in the gym is being replaced.
- The Committee discussed taking advantage of the rented lift to complete additional maintenance and cleaning while the equipment is available.
- The Recreation Capital Reserve Fund may be used for qualifying capital improvements.
- Approximately **\$117,000** remains in the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund.
- The planned ADA ramp and other capital improvements are eligible for consideration under the fund.

ADA Improvements

- The next planned improvement is an **ADA ramp** providing access to the gym.
- After the ramp cost is determined, design work will begin for the gym bathrooms.
- The bathrooms will require architectural plans and are expected to be a significant expense.
- Remaining funds will determine how much additional work can be completed.

Future Recreation Improvements

- Potential future projects discussed included:
 - A bandstand similar to the existing Town bandstand.
 - Improvements near the playground.
 - Additional community gathering space.
 - Improvements to the ball fields and dugouts.
 - Clearing and improving a walking loop connecting the fields to the rail trail.
- The ball fields and dugouts have received recent cleanup and painting.
- The facilities could potentially be used for community events and rentals.
- The proposed new committee could help develop and oversee future recreation projects.
- Approximately \$30K available for improvements left in the town hall fund.

AES Building Timeline

- The main portion of the AES building is expected to be ready for occupancy before the gym.
- The gym is not expected to be available until **at least next summer**, depending on the completion of the ADA ramp, bathroom design, funding, and construction.
- The Committee discussed the potential for the gym to become a significant community resource for: Bingo, craft fairs, exercise classes, pickleball, line dancing and other community activities.

New Business

Thibeault Property / Development reviewed by Mike

- Thibeault Corporation has engaged an engineering company to begin developing a site plan for the property.
- Allentown Aggregate is working to sell/remove as much gravel as possible to prepare the property for development.
- No firm commitments from businesses have been made for the property at this time.
- Development will depend on completing the necessary site preparation and establishing buildable lots.

Local Business Development

- The Committee discussed supporting local businesses whenever possible.
- Sewer Surgeon, located in a nearby commercial building, was recently used for sewer-related work.
- The Committee discussed another proposed commercial building and a possible additional six-unit building.
- The status of Planning Board approval and construction timing remains uncertain.

September Movie Night

- The Committee discussed the possibility of holding a **Movie Night in September**.
- The Ragnar Relay race has been cancelled because organizers were reportedly in arrears with the State.
- The cancellation affects the Fire Department, which normally purchases food and operates a significant fundraiser during the event.
- The Committee discussed collaborating with the Fire Department on a September Movie Night.
- Items to be coordinated include:
 - Movie licensing.
 - Food and refreshments.
 - Tables and event setup.
 - Use of the Town's inflatable drive-in movie screen.
- The Fire Department may be interested in participating now that the Ragnar Relay has been cancelled.
- A Committee member will contact John Sartorelli to discuss the event.
- A movie will need to be selected and licensing availability confirmed.
- The Fire Department typically handles food preparation, with Keith Claus assisting with the menu, cooking, and supplies.
- The popcorn machine is also available for the event.

Approval of Previous Minutes

- Motion made by Liz to approve the **July 8, 2026 meeting minutes**.
- Motion seconded by Peter
- **Vote: All in favor — Aye.**
- **Motion carried.**

Adjournment

- Motion made by Liz to adjourn.
- Motion seconded by Peter
- **Vote: All in favor — Aye.**
- Meeting adjourned at approximately **7:00**

These minutes were transcribed and respectively submitted by
Dawna Baxter, Recording Secretary

ALLENSTOWN EDC – PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES SIGNATURE PAGE

Original Approvals:	
Michael Frascinella, Chairman	Date
Elizabeth Joyce, Vice Chairman	Date
	Date
Crystal Robbins, Member	Date
Peter DeSantis , Member	Date
	Date

Amendment Description:	Approvals:	Date:
	Michael Frascinella, Chairman	Date
	Elizabeth Joyce, Vice Chair	Date
		Date
	Peter DeSantis, Member	Date
	Crystal Robbins, Member	Date
		Date