

Subject: Comments on meeting of 13 July 2005

Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2005 00:07:31 -0700

From: Corrie Kost <corrie@kost.ca>

To: patricia@insight2success.com

CC: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>, Cathy Adams <cathyadams@canada.com>, fonvca@fonvca.org

Dear Patricia Lambert,

Attached in pdf are my comments. Below is a plain text version in case you have difficulties with the attachment.

Yours truly,

Corrie Kost

Dear Patricia Lambert,

Thank you for the opportunity to add some public comments on the process improvement workshop between DNV and Chamber of Commerce. My primary expectation at such meetings was to ensure the integrity of the process with respect to protecting the interests of the community/neighbourhoods. Some specific comments on what transpired may be helpful.


- Contrary to a stated opinion, not all can work and play in the same area.
- Statistically those municipalities in North America which are most open to business also tend to be the least livable. The goal should be to be pro-business while also improving the livability for our residents.
- Relocation of certain businesses can be complex and highly contentious- take for example the moving of a liquor store!
- Lengthy consultation processes, especially those which are confrontational and filled with tension, is a healthy thing and a sign of the democratic process at work. I agree that endless meetings can be exhausting for all stakeholders - and in my opinion puts the public at a disadvantage as they often have limited resources. It's also hard to be 100% vigilant.
- Not only developers encounter new requirements deep into the process - the public also experiences ever shifting positions/conditions as the process advances. Of course new information - often only exposed well into the process - is a significant factor that lead to new requirements.
- While the District has recently developed a Master Requirements List (MRL) for single family residential developments it should do a similar MRL for business projects - particularly small businesses - which forms the backbone of commerce.
- More focus should be put into assisting our small business entrepreneurs.
- The DNV is particularly adept at developing good web pages. More emphasis could be put into supporting business - especially as it relates to better understanding the regulatory requirements.
- Some new powers granted under the Community Charter - for example, granting up to 10 years of "special tax treatment" in order to revitalize certain areas could be used to encourage a better business environment.
- It may be worthwhile to review the many past reports relating to economic development for DNV. I recall the 1994 Commercial Area Analysis report for Edgemont Village done by the North Shore Economic Development Commission (established in 1989). It was an independent non-profit organization funded by the 3 North Shore municipalities and the Province.
- Effective communication is a key element - more of these workshops are needed - with more small business

people taking part.

- Need to simplify and reduce the number of regulations - and their costs!

Yours truly,

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 13july2005.pdf	Name: 13july2005.pdf Type: Portable Document Format (application/pdf) Encoding: base64
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Corrie Kost < kost@triumf.ca >
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