

Role and Scope of the Economic Development Committee

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The Economic Development Committee of the Seeley Lake Community Council was established to find ways to help Seeley Lake build a stronger economy. After meeting for many months, it has become clearer that there are really two different paths for economic development, both of them excellent. The first is to maintain and enhance those businesses already in place and help them increase their economic footing. After much discussion, all paths directed to this end tend to look at tourism as a major benefactor of most businesses. Not only the visitors that travel through Seeley Lake, but those that come here as a destination, increase the local economic activity. It is felt that the Seeley Lake Chamber of Commerce has a primary responsibility in this area, including advertising, signage, a VIC (Visitors Information Center) information kiosks, and related mechanisms to increase the awareness of those coming to Seeley Lake of the facilities, sights, trails, activities, etc.

The second area of discussion has been centered on development of new industry in the Seeley Lake area. Several possible approaches have been discussed such as targeting specific cities or regions, inviting companies to have training seminar here, developing infrastructure and incentives to make this area more attractive, develop affordable housing, etc. This portion of the effort more directly coincides with the duties of the Seeley Lake Community Council. It is therefore recommended that the Economic Development Committee limit its activities to those centering on developing new industry in this community. Of necessity there will be some overlap with Chamber efforts, but the primary functions will be as discussed above.

Voted on and ratified at the August 2011 SLCC Meeting