

Essex Economic Development Commission (EDC) Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2022

Online via Microsoft Teams

Hybrid at 81 Main Street, Essex Junction

Attendees

- *EDC* - Chair Brian Shelden, Vice Chair Jeff Benjamin, Ms. Ta-Tanisha Reddita, Mr. Nick Fukuda
- *Staff* - Darren Schibler, Jean O'Sullivan

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at approximately 8am by Chair Brian Shelden

Updates to Agenda

- No updates to agenda
- No public to be heard
- Approved previous minutes

Social Media Outreach

- Growing concern over negative comments posted under business promotions
 - Comments are personal and not related to actual business offering
- Consider local news outlets for additional promotions
- Discussed ways to take advantage of Essex's social media presence

Planning Commission Updates

- Figuring out best methods for gathering information
- Creating priority list of items to collaborate with EDC on
- Conduct analysis on current building/development activities
- Thoughts from Darren
 - Focus on ETC next
 - Allowable/conditional use
 - Fort Ethan Allen Re-opening

Social Media Table

- Use table at Voices for Inclusion in Essex and Westford (VIEW) to engage public
- Share information about current EDC projects
 - i.e., Social media outreach
 - Collaboration w/ planning commission

Partner Updates

- San Anderson – No legislative updates
- State continues to discuss Act 250

Jean O'Sullivan

- EDC will get database from VT Business Magazine
- Calling 20 businesses a week to assess needs
- CATMA – building census on transportation in area
 - Scheduling meeting with EDC

Robin Pierce

- Phase 2 of building affordable housing in Essex having difficulties
 - Difficulties concerned with –
 - Funding
 - Federal regulations

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday June 2nd

Meeting ended at 9:08AM

Minutes approved June 2, 2022