

Essex Economic Development Commission (EDC) Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2022

Online via Microsoft Teams

Hybrid at 81 Main Street, Essex Junction

Attendees

- *EDC* – Acting Chair Jeff Benjamin, Ms. Ta-Tanisha Redditta, Mr. Nick Fukuda
- *Staff* – Katherine Sonnick, Darren Schibler, Jean O'Sullivan
- *Public* – Ken Signorello, Irene Wrenner, and Brian Shelden

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:03am by Acting Chair Jeff Benjamin

Updates to Agenda

- No updates to agenda
- Approved previous minutes

Public to be Heard

- Ken Signorello – Greg Morgan's membership has expired. Should remove from website

Planning Commission Updates

- Katherine Sonick – New Community Development Director
 - Will work with Darren on coordinating joint initiatives between EDC and Planning Commission
 - Katherine will also work closely with Jean

Jean O'Sullivan

- Saxon Hill – paramount issue is ability to recruit and retain workforce
 - Introduced idea of offering transportation as a benefit to employees
 - Tax free benefit to employee
 - Expense write-off for employer
 - Potential partnership with National Guard. Members could make great employees and help businesses fill their vacancies
- Database
 - Continuing to develop and refine
 - Draft to be sent to commission members for review

Darren Schibler

- Explore Essex – Newly branded out and about – will have more details next meeting

Partner Updates

- Sam Anderson – three Grant Programs being drafted
 - 1) Loan forgiveness program
 - 2) Worker Relocation Grant
 - 3) CIP Program

Next meeting

- August 4th at 8am

Adjournment

- Meeting Adjourned at 8.58am