

Essex Economic Development Commission (EDC) Meeting Minutes

August 4th, 2022

Online via Microsoft Teams

Hybrid at 81 Main Street, Essex Junction

Attendees

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

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:01am by Chair Jeff Benjamin

Updates to Agenda

- No updates to agenda
- Previous meeting minutes pending review. Will look to approve next meeting

Planning Commission Updates

- No movement yet. Several members are in the process of being reappointed

Other Split Off Meetings

- Looking to partner with other commissions regarding ETC Next
- Nick to follow up with current owners of the Fort
 - Will need to work with zoning board
 - Put together action plan

Business Database

- Aiming to refine into B2B directory
- Business employee ranges:
 - 0-5
 - 5-9
 - 10-19
 - 20-49
 - 50-99
 - 100-249
 - 250-499
 - 500 –
- Use SIC code to organize employers
- Public vs Local Gov use
 - Still discussing what info is most valuable for users

Town of Essex Website Updates

- Re-design by 12/26/22

Jean O'Sullivan

- Childcare and housing
 - EDC looking to focus on childcare
 - Forming sub-group to discuss and conduct survey
 - What can the business community do to deliver childcare?

Partner Updates

- Sam Anderson
 - New grant programs remain tied up in committees – no movement
 - Updates to VEDA program to be announced in September
 - Vermont Leadership Summit
 - Looking for members to attend
 - Jean will follow up
- Robin Pierce
 - Connector road crossing project complete

- Low incoming housing updates
 - No funding from HYD
 - Zone is too noisy

Next meeting set for Thursday 9/1
Meeting Adjourned at 9:07