

Abbreviated* Essex Economic Development Commission (EDC) Meeting Minutes**

September 1st, 2022

Online via Microsoft Teams

Hybrid at 81 Main Street, Essex Junction

Attendees

- *EDC* – Chair Jeff Benjamin, Ta-Tanisha Reddita, Nick Fukuda, Rebecca Robinson, Rey Garfano
- *Staff* - Jean O'Sullivan
- *Public* - Ken Signorello, Irene Wrenner

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:00am by Chair Jeff Benjamin

Updates to Agenda

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

Website Updates

- Nothing to report – move discussion to next meeting
- Still putting together layout/format to create best user experience

Sam Anderson – GBIC

- VEDA – Short Term Forgivable Loan Program
 - Launching mid-September
 - Intended to address economic harm brought about by pandemic
 - \$19m available
 - Eligibility criteria outlined on VEDA website

Jean O'Sullivan – EDC Community Programs

- **Feeder Programs**
 - Manufacturing - putting together tech/training labs for students at MMU
 - Hospitality – manager development programs
 - The Essex & Black Flannel

Rey Garfano – Childcare

- State programs to promote childcare
 - Ad campaign in development
 - \$800k available for programs to start and develop childcare programs

Next meeting set for Thursday 10/6

Meeting Adjourned at 9:14