

Essex Economic Development Commission (EDC) Meeting Minutes

December 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

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:06am by Chair Jeff Benjamin

Updates to Agenda

- No updates to agenda
- November meeting mins pushed to January

Joint Commission Update

- Holding public meetings throughout Essex to help shape town plan. Goal of meetings is to gain high level understanding of public wishes
 - Topics of Discussion
 - Infrastructure
 - Zoning/Development
 - Conservation/Recreation
 - Agricultural Lands
 - Climate Change
 - Economic Development
- State Designation for Town (city already has one)
 - Allows for grant applications
 - Legislation voted on in town plan

Williston Business Success

- Consult Williston EDC
- More info to follow

VEDA Forgivable Loan Program

- Now 160 applications
- \$3.2 Million Spent

Partner Updates

- CRRP Program – To assist those industries most impacted by Covid - \$40m available
 - Arts and Entertainment
 - Hospitality
 - Agriculture
 - Affordable Housing
 - *First 30 days reserved for BIPOC applicants
- VEGI – Vermont Economic Growth Initiative
 - Essex has received the most grants

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05

Next Meeting Scheduled for January 5th 2023