

Essex Economic Development Commission (EDC) Meeting Minutes

March 3rd, 2023

Online via Microsoft Teams

Hybrid at 81 Main Street, Essex Junction

Attendees

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

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:08am by Chair Jeff Benjamin

Public to be Heard

- Ken Signorello
 - EDC not included on annual report
- Parry Davis
 - Former planning commission member –
 - Requested a commission member look into property developer Marlin
 - buildings on Hillside Circle need to be more energy efficient. Not meeting waste management standards as well
 - Another property on Saxon Hill is also failing to meet basic energy/waste standards

Agenda

- Change next meeting date from 4/2 to 4/6

Meeting Minutes

- Correct spelling of Rey Garofano's last name

Joint Commission Meeting

- Aggregating data from town meetings complete
 - Data reconfigured into 6 "word" clouds
 - Katherine Sonnick has links to clouds for those interested
 - Planning Commission will now take data and use to frame town plan
- Jeff Benjamin
 - Review language from last town plan
 - Create a working group to assemble on 3/20
 - Assign pages to members beforehand

Business Census List

- Operable and growing
 - Send postcards to gather SIC numbers to clean up data

Partner Updates

- West Central CEDs – comprehensive economic development strategy now complete
 - Currently under review by 4 regional planners
 - Then will be sent to EDA for final approval
- Community Recovery and Revitalization Programs
 - Project to help groups recover funds from COVID
 - NOT a reimbursement – must be granted capital before making purchases
- VEDA

- Application deadline March 31st

EDC Community Focus

- ZIP Code needs to change - reimbursement of local options tax

Meeting Adjourned at 9:07

Next Meeting April 6th, 2023