

Essex Economic Development Commission (EDC)
Special Meeting Minutes
September 14th, 2023
Hybrid at 81 Main Street, Essex Junction and Zoom
Approved 9/21/23

Attendees

Commission Members:

Present: :Nick Fukuda Vice Chair, Ken Signorello Clerk

Remote: Rebecca Robinson Chair, Ta Tanisha Redditta, Melissa Stewart,

Staff: Jean O'Sullivan

Partners: Arleace Green SBA

Public: Irene Wrenner

Meeting called to order by Rebecca Robinson 8:07 AM

Updates to the Agenda: None

Public Comment: Citizen Irene Wrenner - Voiced concern that [prior] meeting minutes were not appearing on the agenda and that documents being discussed should be included so that the public can see what is being discussed.

Action Plan Section of Town Plan

Robinson displayed a draft. Edits and discussions ensued. Signorello noted that he had received the draft at 7:55 PM the prior night;

Goal Section: General sense was that Fukuda, and Stewart liked broad wording presented. Signorello preferred more specific goals that can be objectively determined as accomplished.

O'Sullivan mentioned a specific example program related to housing. Fukuda emphasized the importance of workforce housing.

Action Item Section: Signorello noted that previously separate action items had been merged into single items making them harder to accomplish.

Robinson asked if anyone would be willing to work on another draft, Signorello volunteered to deliver one two days before the next meeting on 9/21/23.

Signorello reminded the Commission that if the majority prefers the document the way it is, we don't have to go through another edit process.

Motion by Robinson: Change 9/21 meeting to include a Town Plan Action Item Adoption Action rather than a business outreach event. Second: Stewart. Passed (5,0)

Partner update - Arleace Green SBA Public Affairs Specialist

Green reviewed:

SBA programs for homeowners, renters, small businesses and not for profits physical damage from flooding extended to October 12th 2023.

An additional loan program: Economic injury Disaster Loans which can be applied for through April 15 2024. Injury does not have to be directly from flooding but can be economic damage such as income loss. Apply via 800 659 2955 <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/>

O'Sullivan will draft a letter to Essex businesses informing them of these programs.

Fukuda emphasized the utility and attractiveness of these programs

Motion to Adjourn by Stewart, Second Fukuda Passed (5,0)

Robinson Adjourned the Meeting at 8:58

Minutes Submitted by Clerk Ken Signorello, September 15, 2023, Approved 9/21/23

Meeting recording available at https://youtu.be/UlsTLIVQYbY?si=TfZsfH_ZyPB14gtS