

Essex Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 4th, 2024 8:00AM

81 Main Street, Essex Junction, VT

Draft Minutes Submitted by Clerk Ken Signorello, April 8th, 2024

Approved May 2nd, 2024

Attendees

Commission Members:

Present: Ken Signorello, Clerk

Remote: Rebecca Robinson, Chair; Nick Fukuda, Vice Chair

Absent: Ta Tanisha Redditta; Melissa Stewart

Staff: Jean O'Sullivan

Public: None

Meeting called to order by Robinson at 8:08 AM

Updates to the Agenda:

Signorello:

Add follow ups from last meeting

Add Assign Responsibility for EDV Vision RFP

Add Debrief from Planning Commission Meeting

Add Adjournment

Motion to approve updated agenda by Robinson, Second by Fukuda, Approved (3,0)

Public To Be Heard: None

Approve Minutes from 4/21/24

Signorello requested to add photos of attendance and blowdowns on Browns River sugar bush

Motion to Approve amended 4/21/24 Minutes by Robinson; Seconded by Signorello;

Approved (3,0)

Partner Updates: None

Follow up from last meeting

Signorello - to get 2018 ED vision document Scanned - Done

O'Sullivan - to help Browns River Maple with FEMA claim - sent email to Browns River and confirmed that FEMA was ready to work with them.

Robinson and O'Sullivan wanted to be sure Browns River is included in Explore Essex Passport program - Fukuda agreed to be sure to include them.

Signorello to send info on StarLink and Vermont Road Sign program to Browns River Maple - Done

Signorello to send info on Essex Open Land and Farm contracts - info does not exist - asking Conservation and trails to produce.

Assign Responsibility for EDC Vision RFP

O'Sullivan confirmed that there is budget
Robinson volunteered to take on this responsibility
Signorello and Fukuda agreed.

Signorello Nominated Robinson to head up the Economic Development Vision RFP production

Fukuda seconded and Robinson accepted

Debrief on Planning Commission Resolution Presentation

Robinson summarized.

Signorello summarized. Chair was the only one that spoke in opposition focused on traffic.

O'Sullivan - volunteered to further pursue this, enlisting Financial Futures

O'Sullivan said that Child Care is a priority for the Community Development Department

Signorello suggested asking for a response to the resolution from the Planning Commission

Fukuda suggested that this may not be productive

O'Sullivan concurred

O'Sullivan suggested that Community Development Department produce a clarifying memo

Next Meeting

Robinson said the next meeting is on April 18th but there is no business designated for the outreach. No prior commitments have been met.

O'Sullivan committed to securing the business for April 18th meeting and business outreach.

Signorello suggested John Leo Excavating

Staff Update

O'Sullivan said that she would provide EDC input to Essex News

Robinsison thanked her and **will provide some content and will send,**

O'Sullivan indicated that the EDC could buy a %50 gift certificate from businesses we meet with in the EDC business outreach program that could be raffled off at Explore Essex.

Signorello expressed concern about giving all businesses a chance to participate.

O'Sullivan committed to sending out an invitation to all Essex Businesses

Signorello suggested retroactively thanking past businesses and offer to buy a \$50 Gift certificate from each.

Robinson and O'Sullivan Agreed

O'Sullivan said that on April 24th and 25th VT House Commerce and Transportation committees are host visits to Beta and Essex and is coordinating to see what they are planning to see and hopes to show them the new Event Center at Essex Resort and meet with Maya Crowly at Uncommon Coffee as an example of a business that was denied a COVID grant for frivolous reasons.

O'Sullivan said there is a video in the reading file she wants the EDC to see as an example of an education program that she hopes could be replicated here.

Robinson Moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Fukuda (Approved 3,0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 AM.

Meeting recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poReHiCkIGg>