

Essex Economic Development Commission (EDC)
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 15th, 2025 1:00PM
Meeting Held at Glavel, 131 Red Pine Circle, Essex VT 05452
Draft Minutes Submitted by Clerk Keith Dunbar, May 18, 2025

Attendees

Commission Members:

Present: Igor Polenov, Chair: Ken Signorello, Vice Chair; Keith Dunbar, Clerk; Nick Fukuda

Remote:

Absent:

Staff: Jean O'Sullivan

Public: Rob Conboy

Irene Wrenner

Katie Desanto

Nicolette Baron

Partners: N/A

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

No additions or changes were made to the agenda.

3. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

No members of the public requested to speak at this time.

4. MEETING WITH ROB CONVEY AND TOUR OF GLAVEL

Rob Conboy, Founder and CEO of Glavel, provided a comprehensive tour of the facility and an overview of operations.

Key points from the tour included:

- Glavel recycles glass powder (mainly from Quebec) to manufacture foam glass aggregate.
- The facility uses electricity to operate kilns for sustainability and low carbon emissions.
- Products are used for sub-slab insulation and lightweight fill in construction projects.
- Current production capacity is 20 tons/day, with plans to double production and expand sourcing to use Vermont glass.
- Employment practices emphasize inclusion, including hiring formerly incarcerated individuals and new Americans.
- Additional production line equipment is on order to meet future demand.
- Partnerships with local agencies and efforts to source Vermont-based recycled glass are underway.
- The tour highlighted energy management practices, including GMP load management and operational adaptations.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by **Signorello** and seconded by **Polenov** to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2025, meeting with an amendment clarifying impact fee schedule options (A includes the aerial truck, B includes fire station).

Vote: Unanimous approval (4-0).

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

Discussion of zoning improvements for the RPD district:

- Proposed additions include food service (restaurant/food truck) to reduce vehicle travel and serve workers.
- Childcare options were also discussed, including current facilities and potential expansion.
- Commissioners discussed future planning coordination with CATMA's upcoming transportation study.
- Commissioner **Signorello** provided an update on proposed ordinance change to manage temporary signage outside zoning.
- Rob Conboy shared Glavel's efforts to support inclusive hiring and suggested aligning with reentry facility proposals.
- Concerns with Act 250 constraints on in-state glass processing were raised.
- Future transportation and access improvements were identified as critical for park expansion and traffic mitigation.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next EDC meeting is scheduled for June 4th, 11:00am – 1:00pm.

The following Business Outreach meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday in June at 8:00 AM at the Tree Farm Recreation Facility.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Polenov motioned to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by **Signorello**.

Vote: Unanimous approval (4-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 PM.