

Randolph Economic Development Council
Minutes of the NOVEMBER 4, 2015 Meeting

Attending: Mel Adams, Jason Aldous, John Lutz, Paul Rea, Marjorie Ryerson, Michael Tragner, and Joe Woodin.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm in Conference Room A of the Town Hall. Chair Michael Tragner presided at the meeting. Two members of the public, Camden Walters and Jessica Toffet attended this meeting.

The minutes of the October 5, 2015 meeting were approved. 5-0-0

The Council members thanked Joe Woodin for revising and submitting the letter that appeared in The Herald's October 29th edition. This letter stated the members of the Economic Development Council have mixed feeling that somewhat reflect current community opinion. It urged that all community members listen to each other's position and work toward agreements that will benefit all.

Next discussed was **Initiative B – "Creating an Inventory of Assets."** John Lutz reported that replies from the second mailing are being completed and returned, but that the pace is slower than the response rate of the initial mailing. Future plans include mailing a copy of "Guide to Doing Business in Randolph" to all those on our list of businesses and organizations.

Council members then considered **Initiative A**, the project to create a **Guide to Doing Business in Randolph**. Julie Iffland, who was not able to attend our meeting, had emailed a revised draft incorporating suggestions made at our October meeting. There was a lengthy discussion about the need to make it clear who should be the new prospect's first contact within the Town.

The next step for this brochure is to have a professionally designed proof prepared, followed by additional careful proofreading and revisions completed so it can go to print.

Mel Adams had joined our meeting and brought copies of the film prepared about Randolph which is being shown on TV as part of a "Town of Distinction" series. Members of the Council viewed the 5-minute film and were very positive about the professional quality of the feature and the wide list of area advantages it displayed. The Council will make an effort to have VTC, the Chamber of Commerce, the Summit, Three Stallions and the Town to make available this film as part of their websites.

Randolph's tax stabilization policy was next on the agenda. We had received the newer version of the policy that the Selectboard had approved on January 16, 2013. Council members responded that this policy was much better written and had a formal application and a multi-page agreement. It is quite adequate for the present. Currently only one company, Freedom Foods, has a tax stabilization agreement with the Town.

We will submit the Public Comment Policy our Council developed and harmonized with a Town document, were merged and will be presented to the Selectboard for approval.

There are several local businesses that are not included in our first Inventory. To reach them, we will place an ad in The Herald asking businesses or organizations that did not receive one of our verification cards to contact the Council to receive a sign-up form.

In the short remaining time there was a short discussion noting that time at our December meeting should be spent talking about the Council's next initiative. We have largely met our goal of completing two significant projects in our first period of activity. There were no new area business developments to share at this meeting.

The next meeting of the Council will take place on December 7, 2015 in Conference Room A of the Town Hall at 5:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by John Lutz