

Randolph Economic Development Council Minutes of the August 1, 2016 Meeting

Attending: Michael Tragner, Winston Sadoo, Jason Aldous, Julie Iffland, Marjorie Ryerson, (Selectboard representative), Mel Adams (Town Manager).

Invited Guest: Margo Baldwin, Chelsea Green Publishing (arrived at 6:00 PM)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM in Conference Room A of the Town Hall. Chair Michael Tragner presided at the meeting and distributed the agenda.

The minutes of the June 6, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved.

No members of the public were present for the public comment portion of the agenda..

Council Vacancies

- There are currently three vacancies on the Randolph Economic Development Council following the departures of Paul Rea, Emma Schumann, and Paul Ralston.
- A notice of vacancies will be placed in the *Herald*.
- Town Manager Adams asked Chair Tragner to provide some text about what the Council is and does that could accompany the ad in the *Herald*.
- The Council suggested several possible names for consideration and members said they would follow up to ask those individuals to file letters of intent with the Selectboard.

Economic Development Opportunity - Chelsea Green Publishing

- Margo Baldwin from Chelsea Green Publishing was invited to meet with the Council to discuss her company's plans for growth and expansion.
- Ms. Baldwin had viewed some properties in Randolph for possible relocation of approximately 20 staff from current space in White River Junction and Burlington.
- None of the spaces in Randolph in their current states met the needs of Chelsea Green and extensive and costly renovations would be required for one of the spaces.
- There was extensive discussion on how the Council and Town might partner to address some of the company's concerns and encourage them to consider Randolph as a new location.
- Given the nature of the books it publishes, Ms. Baldwin said that the company would be open to co-locating with other green businesses or co-working space.
- **Action Items**
 - Town Manager Adams said he would reach out to some design/build partners with whom the town is working to see if they might be interested in reviewing the properties to see if less expensive solutions exist for renovation/energy efficiency. Julie Iffland agreed to reach out to someone at Efficiency Vermont to join in with the property inspection.

- Julie Iffland and Michael Tragner agreed to draft a community profile, with focus on green/sustainability.

Guide to Doing Business In Randolph

- The Guide was reviewed and additional edits/updates were made and it will go to print soon.

Pocket Park Update

- Designer Ward Joyce will be coming to Randolph on 8/11 for a public meeting as a kickoff to the design process.
- The Selectboard approved the Council's recommendation of \$5,000 to fund the design phase.

Council Priority Projects

- The Council briefly discussed next steps regarding the visitor information kiosk and Chamber of Commerce station currently located adjacent to The Barn and McDonald's near Exit 4.
- The Council would like to pursue an upgrade of this space to make it more attractive and useful to travelers and attract more business to downtown Randolph.
- Chair Tragner said he would reach out to ownership of the Barn to gauge their interest in partnering on this effort and creating a unified look and feel.
- Prior to leaving the Council, Emma Schumann said she had received verbal approval from the State of Vermont for the Council to do whatever it wanted with the space now occupied by the large way finding kiosk which is in very poor condition. The Council felt that more formal written approval was needed before proceeding.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.