



TOWN OF RANDOLPH, VERMONT

Economic Development Council

Meeting Minutes November 7, 2019 5:00 pm

Members present: Peter Reed, Tom Ayers, Winston Sadoo, Jay Hooper

Guests: Dan Bennett, Andrea Easton, Damian DiNicola

Town of Randolph: Joshua Jerome, Adolfo Bailon

Topics discussed:

1. Council Structure

Peter reported on the recent presentation to the Select Board to drop out of town oversight and expansion of the council membership- both proposals were rejected by the Select Board. We will continue to submit required agendas and minutes as required, and will also continue to formally invite a broader group of people to the meetings to maintain momentum on our recent collaborative progress. Adolfo will arrange to advertise for the open "official" position on the council, and perhaps one of our recent participants might apply.

2. Fed Challenge Grant

Josh reviewed progress on applying for a Boston Fed Challenge Grant, and efforts to join forces with other area towns to attract a \$10-15K planning grant, with the possibility of a \$300k 3 year grant for 4 groups. A committee of town representatives is working towards the December 13 deadline for the application. Area towns include Randolph, Braintree, Brookfield, Bethel, Rochester, and Chelsea.

3. Randolph Property Tax Stabilization

Josh proposed a review of the current town guidelines for tax abatements, in an effort to make the process more quantitative and less subjective. We agreed to spend part of our next meeting on this issue, and Josh will distribute the current guidelines as well as any examples of other language we might consider.

4. Downtown Business Event

We discussed holding a business event in Randolph in February or March, to present actual and potential business owners a program which addresses their concerns- government loan and support programs, networking, marketing, staffing, etc. Maybe an agriculture component? Josh is organizing and any ideas on speakers and topics should be directed to him.

5. Meeting Day

No objections were raised to changing the meeting day to the first Thursday of the month so please plan accordingly going forward.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Reed, Chair