



TOWN OF RANDOLPH, VERMONT

Economic Development Council

Meeting Minutes April 8, 2019 5:30 pm

Members present: Peter Reed, Tom Ayers, Winston Sadoo, Ken Cadow

Guests: Julie Iffland, Mary Richter, Dan Bennett, Zac Freeman, Linda Runnion, Damian DiNicola, Joshua Jerome, Bob Haynes

Topics discussed:

1. Restructuring of EDC

Our principal topic was discussing the expansion/restructuring of the EDC along the lines of the latest draft document distributed on March 25. While there was general agreement on the direction being pursued, there were issues raised by several members present:

- Will each of the member groups commit to each other to work together?
- Some investment opportunities will likely be off limits due to confidentiality concerns
- How do we leverage the R3 "brand" and its email list to bring in volunteers
- Is the proposed group too large? Expected to shrink somewhat once it is established.

Peter will pursue a vote of the existing EDC to make the change, and then approach the Select Board for ratification over the next month or so.

2. Hotel

We reviewed the current status of the hotel, and agreed that there is strong support for the Exit 4 project. Nothing much more to be done from this group, but visible support will probably be required at a later stage in the process.

3. Joshua Jerome- Economic Development plan

Joshua outlined his plans to develop a comprehensive 5 year economic development plan, and has already started on a basic framework. He will reach out for assistance as needed, and hopes to have this put together for further discussion in the next few months.

4. R3 Update

Peter provided a brief update on the R3 presentation/celebration planned for late April, and tentative plans for keeping the R3 economic development group in place but on a less intensive scale.

5. Social media and website presence

We discussed the next steps for an improved media presence and possible website. Lots of work still to be done in this area.

6. Child Care Project

Damian reported that meetings have continued for planning a potential child care center, and have involved school representatives, Gifford staff, and some current child care providers. Key issue remains finding someone qualified to run the proposed center.

Next meeting on May 6th- we will look at setting some priorities among all the potential ED projects under discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Reed, Chair