



# TOWN OF RANDOLPH, VERMONT

## **Economic Development Council**

Meeting Minutes September 9, 2019 5:30 pm

**Members present: Perry Armstrong, Peter Reed, Tom Ayers, Winston Sadoo, Ken Cadow, CJ Stumpf, Jay Hooper**

**Guests: Sonny Holt, Mary Richter, Andrea Easton, Damian DiNicola**

Topics discussed:

1. WIFI and Website

The RACDC downtown WIFI project is progressing on both the technical and sponsorship fronts. The website project is more complex, and Mary Richter working on data cleanup and exploring other town websites for ideas.

2. Hotel

Act 250 review underway, as well as a recent requirement for an archeology study. Once Act 250 is complete, then more serious discussions with investors and banks to follow. Currently looking for a group to manage the required on site restaurant.

3. Greenwood property

An investor is interested in purchasing and setting up light manufacturing on the site, but zoning changes are needed although Perry felt the change would not be a problem.

4. Child Care Center

Finding a certified center manager is still a concern, not to mention the potential sources of funding the initial center setup. Preschool offerings at Braintree and Brookfield have taken some pressure off local day care needs, but Damian pointed out that 4-5 year olds are needed in the plan to offset the higher costs of the 0-3 age group.

5. New Arts Council

Tom Ayres reported that the group has been approved by the Select Board, although membership was restricted to 9 members. Meetings will be held on the first Tuesdays of each month. Projects include downtown murals, sculpture trails (in cooperation with RASTA), harmony park, plans for establishing a stronger artist "colony" and attracting artists to our area.

6. Downtown Housing

We discussed the ongoing need for affordable housing in the downtown, and the interconnected issues of jobs, housing, transportation, and child care. In addition to the Salisbury Square property, the town owned lot at Branchwood is also being looked into, and will require an environmental review, that potentially be managed by Two Rivers.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Reed, Chair