



TOWN OF RANDOLPH, VERMONT

Economic Development Council

Minutes of March 5, 2020

Members present: Peter Reed, Ken Cadow, Jay Hooper, Mary Richter

Guests:

Town of Randolph: Joshua Jerome

Selectboard Liaison: Perry Armstrong

Public Attendees:

Topics Discussed:

Joshua provided updates to the council as follows:

Tax Stabilization

Completed and ready to go to the Selectboard. Pending scheduling as an agenda item by Selectboard after reorganization.

Working Communities Challenge

This project is still in its infancy as we have our first full day workshop with the Fed next week. We will make headway on the planning grant at that time. We anticipate incorporating additional communities such as Stockbridge, Hancock and Granville and possibly the Four Town group. More to come on this as we develop the plan.

Business Event

Has taken a back seat as my capacity has diminished with the WCC and increased Zoning requirements. A good event for the group to work on for a fall or spring 21' event. Plan to form another steering committee once the snow is all gone.

Greenwood

KAD Models has moved in and is slowly setting up the shop. Equipment is in and they are planning on doing some renovations to the space.

Belmains

This project seems to be taking a slight twist from the initial concept that may prevent it from fully launching. At this point, I don't anticipate seeing anything happening to that space in the foreseeable future.

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Salisbury Square

The plan is for RACDC to give a presentation in April to the new Selectboard about where they are and to make the ask of the town taking over the infrastructure and finding funding for it. In addition, the Town in partnership with RACDC will be working together to pursue a VCDP planning grant for housing in Randolph. More to come on this over the next couple of months.

Branchwood

Is starting a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment. Will not be able to move forward until after all the snow is melted from the site. Projection is that a Phase 2 will need to happen which may not happen until late Summer.

New Items:

The Gear House

I'm working with The Gear House on a Rural Business Development Grant from USDA for branding and marketing support. Application due 3/31.

Marketing

I met with some consultants recently about a marketing campaign for Randolph. They are putting a proposal together for me that would be a phased approach. How it would be paid for is still up in the air. There needs to be some serious conversations about WHO is supposed to be the chief marketer for the Randolph area; Chamber, RACDC, Town or Someone other entity? What we have now is not working.

ACT 250 Reform

You may know more about this, but: Legislation has passed, and it is not expected to change drastically or be vetoed. I was against this legislation, but it does provide some incentives for developers in Designated Downtowns, Villages and Neighborhood Designated Areas.

Neighborhood Designated Area

We are in the process of reviewing our bylaws in anticipating of preparing an application for NDA in Randolph which would encompass the Designated Downtown plus a half mile buffer around it. Pretty much the whole village. Planning Commission will begin working on bylaw changes in April. Hopefully, we can complete the changes by June.

East Randolph Village Designation

Compiling the application materials and hope to submit to the state designation board for April's meeting. T2. his will allow commercial enterprises in the ERV apply for tax credits (KAD Models) and make Randolph more competitive in state grants as we will be able to check off more boxes.

Municipal Planning Grant

Childcare Assessment is underway. We had our first meeting with the consultant, Reeva Murphy, this week. A four phased approach to assess demand, assess properties, identify potential operators/vendors and help create decision making process. This work will be done by May 1st. Two properties are being assessed, Singer Building and Enterprise Center. If Bob is there, he can fill everybody in.

Other Business:

Block Party

Ken informed the group that information is needed by the May 30th deadline. Suggested a brainstorming session to discuss activities and clarity and assignments on roles i.e. students in charge with games, blood drive, food, physical education/lifetime fitness.

Career School Event

Ken reported it is scheduled for April 29th with a focus as mandatory for Sophomore students. Business involvement includes, Gifford, Northfield Savings Bank, VT Castings, GW Plastics, LEDdynamics.

Working Community Challenge

Josh is working on an initiative how to connect with our youth and what they need to be successful. Ken to connect with Josh.

Zoning Administrative Assistant

Josh reported the position has been filled and will start March 17th. Towns of Randolph, Brookfield and Braintree looking to combine zoning responsibilities into a 40 hour work week.

Council Member Update

Peter advised the council he and Tom Ayres have resigned due to new responsibilities. Peter Reed nominated Mary Richter to Chair, seconded by Jay Hooper.

There are currently three vacancies open for new members. Anyone interested should send an email to EDC@randolphvt.org if you would like to become a council member.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, April 2, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 6:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary V. Richter, Chair