

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Commission Members: Jerry Firkey, Jonathan Guy, Barbara Higgins, Greg Morgan (Chair) and Betty Poulin

Commission Advisors: Trevor Lashua, Assistant Town Manager; Greg Duggan, Planner; Robin Pierce, Essex Junction Planning Director; and Curt Carter, Vice President, Greater Burlington Industrial Corp. (GBIC)

Essex is Vermont's second largest municipality and home to at least 7,500 high value, high wage jobs – more than any other Vermont community. IBM provides about 5,000 of these jobs. While Essex is not yet a fully diversified economy, the 2,500 jobs outside of IBM indicate significant progress toward meeting this long-standing challenge. In support of further improvement, the EDC has worked and tracked progress in several areas:

Promoting Sale or Use of State of Vermont Owned Building 617 and Adjacent Lot off Allen Martin Drive: In 2007 the State of Vermont purchased Building 617 with the intention of using the space for Vermont's forensics lab. The 180,000 square foot structure was built by IBM in the 1980s as a testing facility. With the decision to locate the lab in Waterbury, Building 617 has sat underutilized and pays no property taxes, while the State pays off the \$3.7 million left on the bond and an annual \$350,000 maintenance expense. The five-member Essex House delegation is working diligently to promote the sale or productive use of this space, with two of our representatives playing leadership roles on committees that oversee the future of the property: Linda Myers as Vice Chair of the House Institutions Committee and Martha Heath as Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. To support the delegation's efforts, the EDC has worked to focus attention of this valuable state asset through a series of activities:

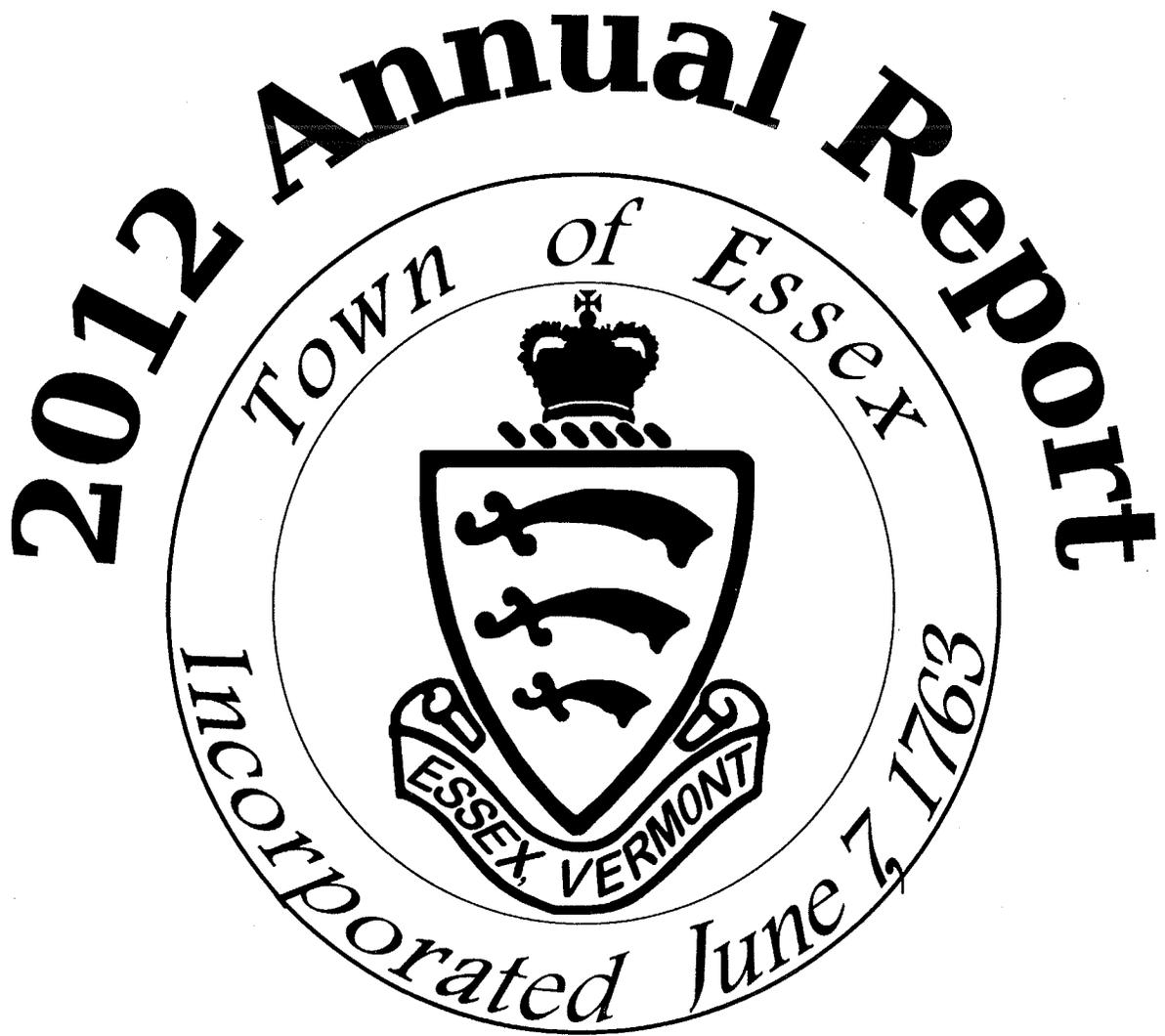
- Arranged a meeting with the Vermont Agency of Commerce, Vermont Buildings & General Services (BGS) Division, and the Essex delegation to the Vermont House to brainstorm a plan to sell or use the building and land;
- Organized Building 617 site tour with BGS and building maintenance staff;
- Actively monitoring the State's commitment to aggressively market the property.

Created an Essex Business Profile: A key element of the 2010 Economic Development and Vision Plan: Essex, Vermont study is to improve our understanding of the Essex business community. The EDC embraced this task in 2012. Using data in the Vermont Business & Manufacturers Directory by Vermont Business Magazine, the EDC has compiled and published a PowerPoint describing the Town's top employers and a spreadsheet with data on 168 companies listed in the Directory. Essex-based companies with more than 70 employees include: IBM Microelectronics (5,000 employees); Green Mountain Coffee Roasters (800); US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) (400); Autumn Harp (248); Revision Military (170); The Essex Resort & Spa (170); FoodScience of Vermont (155); Catamount Color (85); Vermont Systems (85); Flex-a-Seal (76); and Huber+Suhner (71). To view the details, visit www.essex.org, click on Business Community and then Publications and Resources. The EDC seeks the help of the community in improving and updating this information. Please visit the EDC table at the Town Meeting to discuss.

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Chooses Essex and Attracts Supplier: Construction of a 350,000-square-foot addition to its existing 150,000-square-foot facility was the order of the day throughout the first half of 2012 on GMCR's Essex location off Kellogg Road. By this fall, GMCR was roasting coffee and filling cups for its newest product line, the Vue Pack System. In addition, ALPLA, a global plastics

company with headquarters in Austria, has set up shop off River Road to manufacturer plastic cups for the new Keurig system.

IBM Proposes to Expand Champlain Valley Innovation & Technology Park: The EDC is confident that IBM's efforts to add up to 300,000 square feet of light industrial and professional office space to its Essex Junction location will become an economic driver for the region. The EDC applauds the Essex Junction Planning staff and Commission for its efficient and timely review and acceptance in November of IBM's proposed master plan.



Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2012