

**Agenda for  
Essex Economic Development Commission  
Monday – February 8, 2016 – 12:00 PM (noon)  
Essex Police Department – Maple Street**

1. **Public To Be Heard**
2. **Minutes:** Review online (link below) and vote on EDC Minutes – **January 25, 2016**  
[http://www.essex.org/index.asp?Type=B\\_BASIC&SEC={EEED24E8-BDE6-490A-A4F0-7C45F56F4E86}](http://www.essex.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={EEED24E8-BDE6-490A-A4F0-7C45F56F4E86}) )
3. **Senate Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs Committee – Visit to Essex on March 17.** Discuss possible agenda for visit. Tentatively, the visit will start at 9 AM and conclude at noon. This may include a visit to GlobalFoundries and one other stop. Two options are: visit another business or hold a roundtable / panel discussion including Essex businesses – either start-ups or established.
4. **2016 EDC Foci:**
  - a. Tax Options Update (Barbara Higgins)
    - i. State of Vermont List of Communities with Local Option Tax – and 2016 PowerPoint from Berlin related to local option tax vote:
      1. <http://tax.vermont.gov/business-and-corp/sales-and-use-tax/local-option-tax/municipalities>
      2. <http://www.taxrates.com/blog/2014/06/03/vermont-municipalities-local-sales-tax/>
      3. Berlin, VT Story: <http://www.berlinvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Local-Option-Presentation-2016.pdf>
  - b. Marketing / Branding (Robin Lane)
5. **Announcements / Updates / Discussions**
  - a. Report on Dec. 12 Essex Town / St. Albans Meeting (Robin Pierce)
  - b. Report on Essex Junction’s Neighborhood Development Area designation (Robin Pierce) (See Notice Below)
  - c. EDC Table at Town Meeting – February 29: Content and Message (Google Maps Project?)
  - d. Review Essex Public Participation Guide (Greg Duggan)
  - e. Reminder: Essex Town Planning Commission – Open Invitation for Public Comment – Feb. 11. (See Notice Below).
  - f. Workforce Development Update (if any): Engineering Design & Production Technologies (EDPT) Program (Robin Lane)
  - g. CCRPC Essex Junction Train Station (Amtrak) Access and Circulation Scoping Study – at January 26 meeting Trustees approved “Partial Build, No Plaza Option – Building and Canopy, \$1.1M. ([www.ccrpcvt.org/transportation/scoping/essex-junction-train-station/](http://www.ccrpcvt.org/transportation/scoping/essex-junction-train-station/)) (Should be posted by 2/5)
  - h. Confirm next meeting date(s).
6. **Other business**

**For Information:** (Send Agenda and Minutes to: [it@essex.org](mailto:it@essex.org) - Draft – minutes within 5 days / agenda 48 hours before regular meeting)

## **EDC Efforts for 2016 – Initial List:**

1. Tax options (local option sales tax; rooms & meals & alcohol & cannabis – production & sale, should it become legal in Vermont). Look for data from State of Vermont, CCRPC, VLCT on location option taxes in other Chittenden County towns.
2. Marketing / Branding Essex / Business Recruitment: Robin Lane identified issue
3. Development of recreation project (biking / hiking / Nordic skiing) @ Saxon Hill
4. Vermont Legislature
  - a. Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs: Tentative for March 17
5. Update and Add Essex Businesses on Google Maps
6. Potential Speaker(s) / Speaker Series:
  - a. Chittenden County SCORE – Matt Graf – Potential collaboration – Scheduled for Feb. 22.
  - b. Jeff Carr – Local Options Tax – economic status of Essex
  - c. Saxon Hill Recreation Area – discussion with Ally Vile
  - d. Selectboard Member – review SB economic development focus
  - e. Others – brainstorm ideas

## **Neighborhood Development Area designation – Essex Junction**

In line with the stated goals of the Design Five Corners initiative and accompanying charrette the Village applied for, and received, a Neighborhood Development Area designation from the State Downtown Board.

This designation adds benefits that encourage planning for housing within walking distance of our designated village center. Something the Village is already doing. By incentivizing needed housing the designation further supports the commercial establishments in our Village Center.

The Village Plan and initiatives such as the Crescent Connector Road and closing off a short section of Main Street all work towards creating, and maintaining, walkable neighborhoods that have a human scale, are pedestrian oriented, contain a mix of uses, accommodate but manage vehicular traffic (Connector Road and Main Street initiatives), provide a variety of public spaces, have a sense of identity or place, and are connected to adjacent neighborhoods and the village core. The plans for Multiuse Path between North and Central Streets, upgraded sidewalks and new bike lanes on Pearl Street, the creation of a larger open space for the Farmers Market, Block Party and other community events by reclaiming Main Street for pedestrians all bring the Village closer to having a Center that is more attractive to residents and businesses while handling the traffic that moves through our community more effectively, and efficiently.

When looked at in combination with the designated Village Center grants and programs there are many benefits that can accrue to those that renovate or ungraded historic buildings, and those who invest in new buildings in our Village Center. Along with the Land Development Code which guides and encourages appropriate development in our community these two designations add additional layers of benefit that promote our goal of a vibrant and verdant Village Center that all can find value in.