

**Agenda for
Essex Economic Development Commission
Monday – February 22, 2016 – 12:00 PM (noon)
Essex Police Department – Maple Street**

Arrange with conference call capability to include EDC member Betty Poulin in meeting.

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})
3. **Discussion with Champlain Valley SCORE #284:** Matt Graf, Chair of CV SCORE will talk about SCORE’s mission and program developments now underway. Discussion will include ways that Essex and Essex businesses can collaborate with SCORE.
4. **Senate Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs Committee – Visit to Essex on March 17.** Review tentative schedule (see below). Discuss plan.
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. (Greg Duggan – report on discussion)
 - f. Confirm next meeting date(s) and location – either Essex PD or new Town Offices.
6. Other business

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

DRAFT / Ideas for Senate Committee Visit – March 17:

- Transportation: Green Mountain Transit can provide accessible bus for approximately \$400.
- Possibly have EDC / Essex representatives ride up and back with Committee to prep for visit. Talk about possible changes (straightening or improving) to Route 117 during drive into Essex from Richmond.
- Independent Contractor Issue: Mike Plageman will not be available on March 17.
- Tentative Schedule – for discussion: (business participation needs to be arranged)
 - 08:00 AM: Committee Leave Montpelier via Green Mt. Transit Bus or Essex Senior Bus with drive by Thompson Drive to see
 - 09:00 AM: Meet with GlobalFoundries Representatives
 - 10:30 AM: Travel to next stop (drive by new Town Offices)
 - 10:45 AM: Panel Discussion with Essex Business and Community Leaders (to be hosted by willing business (either Vermont Systems or Autumn Harp or Twincraft or ??? – location with manufacturing for tour is ideal). Panel might include: EDC members, SB and Trustee reps, 4 business CEOs – 2 small and 2 large businesses, reporters, Co-Working space rep.
 - 12:10 PM: Leave for Montpelier

Neighborhood Development Area designation – Essex Junction (Robin Pierce)

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.