

**Agenda for
Essex Economic Development Commission
Monday – March 28, 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 – February 22, 2016 and March 14, 2016 (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.**
 - a. Report on meeting content and potential action items.
4. **Announcements / Updates / Discussions**
 - a. Report on Dec. 12 Essex Junction / St. Albans City Meeting re economic development (Robin Pierce)
 - b. Report on Essex Junction’s Neighborhood Development Area designation (Robin Pierce) (See below)
 - c. Middlebury Economic Development Video: (Barbara Higgins)
http://www.elocallink.tv/clients3/vt/middlebury2012/tourplay.php?movie=middvt12_econ_iwd&spon=communit
 - d. Economic Development discussion with Executive Director of Center for Rural Entrepreneurship (No. Carolina) <http://www.energizingentrepreneurs.org/> organized by Gabrielle Smith – Heart & Soul Essex and Orton Family Foundation. (Greg Morgan)
 - e. GBIC at Essex Selectboard on March 21. (Greg Morgan / Curt Carter)
 - f. Confirm next meeting date(s).
5. Other business

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

Revised Schedule: Visit of Vermont Senate Economic Development Committee March 17, 2016

08:00 AM: Committee Leave Montpelier via Green Mt. Transit Bus
(Green Mountain Transit Contact: Donna Rae Decatur ddecatur@gmtaride.org / 262-6193)

At Autumn Harp (www.autumnharp.com)

09:00 AM: Arrive at Autumn Harp at 26 Thompson Drive, Essex Junction, VT 05452

09:10 AM: Tour of Autumn Harp Manufacturing facility

09:30 AM: Panel Discussion with Essex Business Leaders

Confirmed: Autumn Harp

10:30 AM: Travel to GlobalFoundries (drive by new Town Offices)

At GlobalFoundries (<http://www.globalfoundries.com/about/about-globalfoundries>)

011:00 AM: Arrive at GlobalFoundries Lobby, sign in and receive badges
1000 River Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452

- Seated in Executive Conference Room, Introductions
- GlobalFoundries Overview
by Janette Bombardier, Vermont Senior Location Executive
- Window Tour of GF Fabricator
- Visit Summary

12:15 PM: Leave for Montpelier

Participants:

Confirmed: Senate Economic Development, Housing & General Affairs Committee

- Kevin Mullin (Chair – Rutland County)
- Philip Baruth (Vice Chair - Chittenden)
- William Doyle (Washington)
- Ann Cummings (Washington)
- Becca Balint (Clerk – Windham)
- Personal Care Attended for Senator Doyle – to be determined

Confirmed: Essex Community

- George Tyler / President / Village of Essex Junction Trustees
- Max Levy / Chair / Essex Town Selectboard
- Patrick Scheidel / Manager / Town of Essex and Village of Essex Junction
- Greg Morgan / Chair / Town of Essex Economic Development Commission

Confirmed: Essex Businesses

- Hillary Burrows / Director of IT and Finance / Autumn Harp: HBurrows@autumnharp.com
- David Logan / Chairman / Autumn Harp: DLogan@autumnharp.com (if available)
- Lt. Gen. Michael Dubie / President / Revision Military:
- Emir Heco / Founder / Heco Engineering & Excelerate Essex: emir@hecoengineering.com

Invited: Essex Business Panel

- Dodge Ski Boots / David Dodge or Bill Doble)
- FoodSciences Corp. / Bob Shipley, CEO
- Vermont Systems / Giles Willey / President
- Flex-A-Seal / Hank Slauson / President

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.

6. 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>
 4. Current data request in Essex of Doug Fisher – data on amount of rooms and meals, etc.
 5. 2009 vote - \$850,000 would be raised – 1% - Lowes just opening
 6. Put PowerPoint together like Berlin and Colchester
 7. Send Advisory to Selectboard – EDC take a position or not
 - b. Marketing / Branding (Robin Lane)
 - a. Workforce Development Update (if any): Engineering Design & Production Technologies (EDPT) Program (Robin Lane)

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
 - b. Jeff Carr – Local Options Tax – economic status of Essex
 - c. Saxon Hill Recreation Area – discussion with Amy Vile
 - d. Lee Ann Smith – STEM Academy / BTV Ignite Board /
 - e. Selectboard Member – review SB economic development focus
 - f. Others – brainstorm ideas