

**Agenda for
Essex Economic Development Commission
Monday – July 25, 2016 – 12:00 PM (noon)
Essex Town Offices – 81 Main Street**

1. Public To Be Heard
2. Minutes: Review online (link below) and vote on EDC Minutes – July 11, 2016
http://www.essex.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={EEED24E8-BDE6-490A-A4F0-7C45F56F4E86})
3. Housing – Building Homes Together initiative (www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/economic-development/housing/):
Review email answers to email inquiry of Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and Champlain Housing Trust. See comments attached to this Agenda. Also, pass out information from CCRPC website.

This discussion is relevant to the 2016 Essex Town Plan Housing Action Steps listed on pages 12 and 13 of the Town Plan.

4. BTV Ignite and Essex:
 - a. Offer from EJRP to host coding course. Need to discuss with Essex Town Recreation. How to move forward developing this course? (See notes below)
 - b. Consider Essex sponsorship of Tech Jam at CVE (Oct 21-22) and involvement in Innovation Week. Possibly recruit Essex businesses? (<http://www.techjamvt.com/tech-event/innovation-week/>)
5. Announcements / Updates / Discussions
 - Road Pitch Update
6. Other business

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

Email Exchange (about July 10, 2016) between G. Morgan (EDC) / C. Baker (CCPRC) / Chris Donnelly (CHT) about Building Homes Together initiative:

You're getting this email, Chris, because you are listed as on the BHT press release. And Dana couldn't make our meeting today, so perhaps you have answers to the questions below. First, the Essex Economic Development Commission agrees with the concept that Chittenden County needs more housing and applauds the effort to add to the housing stock.

At the EDC meeting today, we talked about BHT's goals and possible Essex involvement. This discussion led to a series of questions I'm wondering if you can answer?

1. The goal of BHT is 3,500 homes in 5 years. Do you know how many homes would be built, based on historical averages and current expectations, if no campaign or focused effort is put in place? Or, asked another way, what is the baseline housing production expected and what percentage above that baseline is this goal for the next five years?

Charlie Baker – CCRPC Response: Over the last five years, we averaged a little more than 450 per year. However, on the good news side, in two of the last three years we built about 600 homes. So depending on the base you choose we are hoping to build between 16 and 55% more housing per year.

2. Is there an "allocation" of the 3,500 homes by community? Do you have an "expectation" of Essex and Essex Junction? If so, what criteria are used to set these targets - land area, population, and housing production history?

Charlie Baker – CCRPC Response: We have deliberately not set targets for municipalities. We will be doing some more analysis over the next few months so that municipalities have more information about trends, demographics, and expected needs.

3. Does Housing Vermont or Champlain Housing Trust have plans to build in Essex? Given that these groups plan to build 20% of the 3,500 units (700 units), will you be reaching out to each community to discuss possibilities? If you do, the Economic Development Commission invites you to discuss your plans with us, if you feel it is appropriate. And, how much above your "average or normal" 5 year production is the 700 unit target?

Chris Donnelly Response via email – Champlain Housing Trust: We don't have anything on the drawing board in Essex at the moment (though we'd love to have that conversation!). Between us (CHT) and Cathedral Square, we'd need to double our production to meet affordable goal.

Responses to creating / hosting coding course in Essex:

Brad Luck – EJRP: Yes, we would be happy to host a "coding" course in partnership with Excelerate and EDC. Let me know next best steps. If you are thinking this Fall, our timeline is the next couple of weeks for putting things together. (Greg note: this must be done immediately)

Mike Schirling – BTV Ignite: And there are a variety of other MOOCs that can provide content + Essex' own Lea Ann Smith, copied, has a curriculum she uses at the high school! Ignite is working on some code class models as well. Let me know how we can help.

Kip Steele – Vital VR (Virtual Reality):

The easiest target demo is teaching gaming. There is a full list of courses that use scratch to teach coding and a project can be done every week. That fills the 3rd to 5th grade category. 5th to 7th you could teach how to make an iPhone application and fundamentals of unity. And for 8th grade and above you can teach into to python. I'm copying Zev Averbach as he and I met about teaching kids to code in small groups aka cohorts. This is the sort of thing that may not be great for a rec program as pay to play doesn't work if the kids do not want to be there. It's like any language class and some kids may not want to do it. Think of it as varsity nerds.

Lea Ann Smith – EHS STEM Academy: We use an online platform called Treehouse to teach HTML, CSS and JavaScript at the high school. These languages are used to create websites. Let me know if that sounds like anything you'd like to hear more about.