

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

1. **Public To Be Heard**
2. **Welcome Jim Bernegger – new EDC member**
3. **Minutes: Review online (link below) and vote on EDC Minutes – July 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}) )
4. **BTV Ignite and Essex: BTV Ignite (via email from Exec. Director Mike Schirling) has asked if Essex is interested in affiliating / sponsoring. This request would involve financial contribution. Should we pursue further to establish costs and benefits?**
5. **Innovation Week: Oct. 17 - 20**
  - a. **Schedule** (<http://innovationweek.sevendaystickets.com/> )
  - b. **Tech Jam Outreach: Possibly pursue Essex companies to become sponsors and use event as a recruitment venue (i.e. booth)**
  - c. **Road Pitch Finals – Oct 18 starting at 4 PM. You can get your free ticket here from Eventbrite:**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/freshtracks-road-pitch-pitch-off-tickets-27415652956>
6. **Outreach from CTE – Robin Lane: Robin reached out about finding an Essex home for manufacturing equipment now located at VTC in Williston. See attached summary (below) of situation.**
7. **Announcements / Updates / Discussions**
  - **Initial brainstorming – “You can build your business here” campaign – do we want to discuss further**
  - **Flex-a-Seal 19,000 sf expansion approved by Essex Junction Planning Commission – Aug. 2016**
  - **Beyond Politics: It’s Time to Build Vermont’s Innovation Economy (Next EDC Meeting Date)**  
Speaker: Nicholas Donofrio, IBM Fellow and Executive VP for Innovation and Technology (ret.)  
Location: University of Vermont Davis Center, Silver Maple Ballroom  
Date and Time: Monday September 26, 2016, 12:00 noon – 1:00PM (conflicts with next EDC meeting)
  - **Manufactured in Vermont: A Supply Chain Conference and Trade Show for Advanced Manufacturing**  
Facilitating Sourcing & Procurement Opportunities for Aerospace, Aviation, Defense, Industrial, Medical, Naval and Space Industries / Wednesday, September 21 / 9:00 - 5:00 pm / Champlain Valley Exposition  
Free Registration here: [www.ManufacturedinVT.com](http://www.ManufacturedinVT.com) (VIP Tour at 3:30 PM)
  - **Next Meeting – Sept 26**
8. **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)

**Future Agenda Item: Finish Review of Town Plan Action Steps**

## **Summary of Center for Technology Effort to Keep Manufacturing Equipment in Essex Notes from Conversation with Robin Lane – August 19, 2016 at Excelerate Essex**

Robin Lane is the SkillTech Director at the Center for Technology, Essex (CTE). SkillTech is the adult technical education and workforce development center at the CTE providing career-related courses that emphasize high-level skills and technical expertise. SkillTech courses are designed for adult learners, and are offered on weekday evenings and weekends throughout the year. View a full list of programs here -

<https://skilltech.ccsuvt.org/> .

Robin is working to keep equipment in Essex to be available to train workers in manufacturing techniques and practices. When purchased, the equipment was valued at about \$140,000 and is owned by CTE. Because CTE is located on the campus of Essex High School where there is no room on-site to house and operate the larger equipment.

As of September 2016, the equipment is installed at the Vermont Technical College's (VTC) Williston campus in one room that is locked much of the time. VTC wants to repurpose this space and to move the equipment which is not now being used. Due to restrictions of the grant, the equipment must be used by a publicly operated tech center. VTC has proposed moving it to the Stafford Technical Center in Rutland, a tech center that has room for the equipment, and has identified the beginning of 2017 as a date for moving the equipment out of Williston.

After a 90 minute discussion with Robin on August 19, Emir and I believe the current goal is to find a way to transfer this equipment from Williston to Essex for the use by CTE programs. Since EHS / CTE do not have available space (1,500 sf) on campus, off campus space is needed. At this point, funds have not been identified to pay for this space. After the equipment transfer is complete, we would love to find ways to expand the use of this equipment as part of a makerspace open to the public.

### **Goals:**

- Help CTE transfer and use this equipment, which it now owns, in Essex to contribute to the community's goal of building a culture supportive of innovation, manufacturing, and workforce training.
- Find a space that can accommodate equipment – about 1,500 square feet with features that will support equipment operation and located near EHS / CTE campus to facilitate use by on-campus students. Due to the cost of moving the equipment, finding a permanent location is ideal.
- Transfer the equipment by winter / spring of 2017.
- Raise / identify funds to pay for space for the equipment and identify an inexpensive space option.

### **Equipment Description:**

- Larger equipment: Packaging and Pneumatic equipment
  - Size: 2 upright pianos / 3 full-sized phone booths
- Smaller equipment (Robin – is there any way to keep all the equipment together in the new location?)
  - Lathes, presses, etc. (Robin, do you have an inventory (list) of equipment?)

### **Next Steps:**

- To Be Determined

Prepared by: Greg Morgan