

**Agenda for
Essex Economic Development Commission
Monday – September 26, 2016 – 12:00 PM (noon)
University of Vermont’s Davis Center**

Essex Economic Commission Members will be attending the talk below at UVM. Since at least 3 members will be in attendance, this is a warned meeting.

Beyond Politics: It’s Time to Build Vermont’s Innovation Economy

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

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

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

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.

- GlobalFoundries 1st Anniversary Story from Poughkeepsie Journal, including discussion of land sales at East Fishkill
- July 2016 Story about 1st year Anniversary www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/news/2016/07/02/1-year-later-globalfoundries-east-fishkill-innovation-hub/86467900/
- April 2016 Story about Land for sale in East Fishkill
- www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/money/2016/04/26/potential-buyers-scoping-out-vacant-property-globalfoundries-campus/83552860/

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 DONE
 - 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
7. Building next to 4 Pearl Street – possible home to a Virtual Reality Lab ??