

Essex Economic Development Commission (EDC) Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2022

Online via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Chair Brian Shelden, Vice Chair Jeff Benjamin, Ms. Ta-Tanisha Reddita

Staff Owiso Makuku, Robin Pierce, Jean O'Sullivan

Special Guest Christopher Koliba, UVM Office of Engagement

Public Ken Signorello

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:00 by Chair Shelden.

Updates to Agenda

Since our guest was running late, we dealt with business of Public To Be Heard (none), Approval of Minutes (none, our last meeting was a work session), and a proposal to update the EDC Charter.

Updates to the EDC Charter

Given challenges of recruiting volunteers to serve on the commission, staff set forth a proposal that up to 40% of the commission's membership be allowed to be business owners whose business is in Essex, even if their residence is outside Essex.

Under the proposal, "residency outside of Essex" would apply to residents of the future City of Essex Junction in exactly the same way as to residents of Burlington, Colchester, Williston et al.

Vice Chair Benjamin proposed accepting the proposal. Ms Reddita seconded. The proposal passed 3-0.

UVM Office of Engagement

Christopher Koliba, director of the UVM Office of Engagement, presented a presentation on business trends within Vermont to the commission and public. The presentation was customized for the Town of Essex.

Partner Updates

Were skipped due to time.

Next meeting

The commission will next meet at 8am, Thursday March 3, 2022.

Adjournment

Chair Shelden asked for a motion to adjourn at approximately 9:00 am. Vice-Chair Benjamin moved and the motion was seconded by Ms Reddita, and then passed 3-0.

Submitted by Chair Brian Shelden March 17, 2022