

Essex Economic Development Commission (EDC) Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2022

Online via Microsoft Teams

Hybrid at 81 Main Street, Essex Junction

Attendees

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

Staff Robin Pierce, Jean O'Sullivan

Public Ken Signorello

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:03 by Chair Shelden. Mr. Fukuda was welcomed to his first meeting.

Updates to Agenda / Public to be Heard

None

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Benjamin moved that we accept all unaccepted minutes, which Ms Reddita seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Woman-owned Business Promotion

March is Woman's History Month. Chair Shelden suggested we find ways to promote since woman-owned businesses in Essex.

Ms O'Sullivan pointed out that she had created social media accounts for the EDC, and said she would share their names with Mr Shelden.

The consensus of the discussion was that Mr Shelden and Ms O'Sullivan could go forward with this promotion.

Partner Updates

Ms Sullivan had two relevant partner updates:

- After looking at our and some other neighboring EDC websites, she thought that ours could be improved. Ms Reddita took it as an action item to a compare / contrast of what some neighboring towns had so we could discuss which things to implement at the next meeting.
- The business census is mostly complete. However, we want to move its status from work item to completed document in such a way that it is open to the public, but, that businesses do not get unsolicited contact as a consequence of sharing their information with us. The chair felt that letting contact information be subject to Public Records Requests might discourage Essex businesses from participating; diminishing its usefulness.
- Ms Sullivan said she would get a legal opinion on what can and what must be made public from lawyers the Town had access to

Next meeting

The commission will next meet at 8am, Thursday April 7, 2022.

Adornment

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