

Whitingham Economic Development Group

Whitingham Municipal Center, Selectboard Office, Jacksonville, VT 05342

**Minutes of** **Tuesday, April 19, 2018**

Attendees: EDG Members: Gretchen Havreluk, Phil Edelstein, and Jenepher Burnell. Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator.

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda

Gretchen called the meeting to order at 6:01PM. There were a few additions or changes to the agenda.

Approve Minutes of March 22, 2018:

Gretchen was not at the meeting, so she could not vote on the Minutes. Tabled to next meeting.

There was no quorum at the March 5, 2018 meeting so no need to approve the Minutes.

Website Update:

Based on information gathered from reading emails it appears Marli and Stephen are working together towards the same goal of salvaging what can be salvaged from the website.

Farmer’s Market:

No news has been heard about the Farmer’s Market for 2018 season. EDG should be supporting but cannot run the Farmer’s Market. Jen will speak with Jack at the General Store.

Networking Event:

We have an extensive list of businesses. Phil suggested sending a letter to everyone on the list so every local business has an opportunity to complete the form to fill out to have their business listed on the website and to indicate their willingness to be involved. He’ll send us a draft.

CoverageCo:

Discussion of the bad business model that has crumbled to the point of bankruptcy. We are waiting for the state to come up with another plan.

Next meeting: Does the 4th Thursday work for everyone. Phil, Jen, Gretchen & Gig say yes, at 6pm.

Conway School/Infrastructure-Sidewalk

The EDG budget was approved for fiscal year 2019 so there will be money available to start a project. Jen thinks a beautification committee might have more time or energy to research grants and bring in ideas and energy.

Regarding the sidewalks, Phil questioned why there is a Jacksonville Electric Company. He has compared some bills and found the Green Mountain Power billing to be cheaper. If the electric company were sold perhaps there would be money for the town to fix the sidewalks. Gretchen doesn’t feel this is an EDG project, it is too political.

Gretchen feels it would be smart to get a scoping study done of the sidewalks and get a plan together for starting to improve the sidewalks over a (for example) five-year project. Conway does not implement a plan, they only create a design. Gretchen will contact the Conway School.

Potential EDG Members:

Collin & Heather Woods expressed interest in joining the EDG. Collin has background in technology. Gretchen invited them to attend a few meetings to see if they would be a good fit and after a few meetings if all works well, then the EDG can suggest to the Selectboard that they be appointed.

Economic Development Related Workshops –VCDA Spring Conference is May 10th, 9am – 3pm. $35 per person, there is money in the EDG budget if any members are interested in going. There is also a Southern VT Economic Summit at Mount Snow on May 30th 9am-4pm and something offered by VLCT in June at Killington on June 14th.

Review Action Items

Approve Minutes of March 22 and April 19 at next meeting. Jen will speak with Jack about the Farmers Market. Phil will draft a letter to the businesses regarding the website and a networking event and also look over the business lists that were pulled from a state website. Gretchen will talk to Conway School.

Next meeting will be May 24, 2018 at 6pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray