



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Date: **Wednesday, October 28, 2020**
Time: **4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
Location: **Milton Municipal Building Community Room**
Address: **43 Bombardier Road, Milton, VT 05468**
Contact: **(802) 893-6655**
Website: www.miltonvt.gov

MINUTES

Members Present: Richard Saunders, Community Member; Anthony Micklus, Clerk; Lindsey Ruhl, Community Member; Jenna Tucker, Director of Recreation; Michael Joseph, Business Member; Cymone Haiju, Director of Planning & Development Review; June Mary Plankey, Business Member

Members Absent: Don Turner, Jr., Chair; Louis Mossey, Community Member; Jamie Parent, Milton Business Association; Robert Lombard, Community Member; Ian Squirell, Business Member; Richard DeSouza, Business Member; Amy Rex, Superintendent of Schools;

1. Call to Order

R. Saunders called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. Public Forum

None.

3. Agenda Review

None.

4. Staff Update

None.

5. Business

A. Introduction of June Mary Plankey, new EDC member

B. Ideas for future EDC discussion:

- J. Tucker: Leveraging recreation department as a development tool.
- M. Joseph: Community kitchen facility; update would be good.
- A. Micklus: Previously discussed a school mentorship/trade/business skills program; should reconsider.

- Also inviting high end food trucks as a way to test the market and set up moving into Town. Milton Businesses Against Racism had previously proposed a food truck cultural fair. Such events could be combined with recreation events. Food trucks and events could be held around Town at parks – likely cooperation of Green Mountain Power, if proposed for river front parks.
- M. Joseph asked about the events status of the winery on Duffy Road. Opportunities for cooperation?
- A. Micklus suggested we maintain an accurate list of available commercial properties. May be worth reviewing.
- J. Tucker: RiseVT has run events/initiatives worth reviewing.
- R. Saunders asked about long term implications of COVID on the Milton business environment and where opportunities lie.
- Group discussed warehousing for businesses with virtual storefronts, possible seed funding for e-economy businesses, opportunities to set up co-working spaces, can we capitalize on the rise in work-from-home which has people looking for more recreation opportunities close to home. AM noted the planning commissions working on live-work unit regulations.
- More information about demographics/working situations of residents would help.
- M. Joseph/J. Tucker: Offering rec programs/classes for businesses. Classes for residents also.
- C. Hariju: Setting up business incubators.
- L. Ruhl: “Zoom” towns - remote work towns. Where do we stand, where do opportunities lie to capitalize on this?
- The “Silver Tsunami” – expected increase in the senior population, expected in Chittenden County 2030. Implications. What will they be looking for? Among other things, recreation opportunities.
- L. Ruhl: How to maintain and grow infrastructure given the changes we expect (post COVID/Silver Tsunami/influx of new residents).
- Park/recreation use has huge impact on business, increasing post COVID. Recreation opportunities are a big part of our future – all agreed – through tourism, getting residents out, attracting new residents esp. post COVID. Colocation of businesses with recreation areas is significant and we need to consider encouraging this more, whether food trucks, popup stores, or static.
 - We could use an update on the trail app in development.
 - J. Tucker: Explore Milton walking challenge – could expand upon.
 - J. Tucker: issue Milton Passports. Include those outside Milton to bring them in.

6. Approval of Minutes of September 23, 2020

Motion made by M. Joseph to approve the Minutes of September 23, 2020 with a second by A. Micklus. Motion Approved.

7. Adjournment

Motion made by M. Joseph to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 p.m. with a second by A. Micklus. Motion Approved.

R. Saunders adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Mooney

APPROVED MINUTES:

_____ Date: _____
Don Turner, Jr., Chair

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office on this _____ day of _____, 2020.

DRAFT