



ECONOMIC DEV. COMMISSION

Meeting Type:..... **Special**
Date:..... **Wednesday, July 27, 2016**
Time:..... **4:00 p.m.**
Place:..... **Town Manager's Conference Room**
Address:..... **43 Bombardier Road Milton, VT 05468**
Contact:..... **(802) 893-1186**
Website:..... **www.miltonvt.org**

MEETING MINUTES

1
2 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

3 The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.
4

5 **2. ATTENDANCE**

6 **Members Present:**

7 Donna Barlow Casey, Town Manager & Ex-Officio Chair
8 Bob Lombard, Community Representative;
9 Lou Mossey, Community Representative; and
10 Tony Micklus, Business Representative (left at 5:00 p.m.).

11 **Members Absent:**

12 Ann Bradshaw, Superintendent of Schools, Ex-Officio Member, & Vice-Chair; and
13 Jamie Parent, Milton Business Association Representative.

14 **Staff Present:**

15 Jacob Hemmerick, Planning Director;
16 Kym Duchesneau, Recreation Coordinator; and
17 Ben Nappi, Assistant Recreation Coordinator (left at approximately 4:45 p.m.).

18 **Public Present:**

19 None
20

21 **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

22 None.
23

24 **4. AGENDA REVIEW**

25 No change.
26

27 **5. STAFF UPDATE**

28 None.
29

30 **6. BUSINESS ITEMS**

31 **6(A). Annual Election of Officers**

32 Tabled by unanimous consent.
33

34 **6(B). Annual Review of EDC Bylaws and Open Meeting Law Update**

35 Tabled by unanimous consent.
36

37 **6(C). General Stannard House**

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1
2 The Chair gave a recap of recent activities regarding the Stannard House project. The EDC has, in the
3 past, discussed utilizing the Stannard House as part of a Signature Event. The building could be a
4 draw for heritage tourism, could be part of re-enactments, etc. The Chair shared some encouraging
5 statistics regarding how and where heritage tourists spend money, and what draws them in.
6 Battleground sites are the biggest draw for this type of tourism. The Stannard House Committee has
7 been working with various other groups toward the creation of a Civil War Historical Site trail running
8 North-South through Vermont. The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation approves of use of the
9 Stannard House as a destination along this trail. However, the Chair explained that the house's current
10 location allows 4 parking spots on a very small lot; noting that the recent Bombardier property
11 acquisition opens up new possibilities as a siting alternative pending community conversations.
12

13 Questions were raised about the stability of the Stannard building and the Chair shared the knowledge
14 she had. Questions were asked and answered regarding the costs to relocate or stabilize the structure.
15 The Chair explained why this project could potentially be a good TIF investment, and perhaps one of
16 the least expensive TIF investments that the Town has available.
17

18 The Selectboard will hear presentations on this over the course of three meetings:

- 19 • Monday, August 15, 2016: orientation
- 20 • September 6, 2016 (rescheduled from September 5, 2016 due to the holiday): a second meeting
21 attended by Stannard House advocates, with time for discussion, questions, and general
22 information gathering
- 23 • Date to be determined: a third meeting for the SLB to consider and make a decision.
24

25 The Chair stated this discussion was food for thought, and would like the Commissioners to consider
26 whether or not they, as a Commission, want to engage in and potentially support this project.
27 Commissioners inquired about the tradeoffs between this TIF investment and other potential projects,
28 and the possibilities for this restoration to spur increment to pay the debt.
29

30 **6(D). Revised Business Summit Proposal**

31 Staff reviewed feedback received following the group's last meeting. A couple of key needs were
32 identified: 1) the need to cater the event to the audience, and 2) that there are two groups that need to
33 be addressed, loosely named the insiders and the outsiders (the insiders being existing Milton business
34 owners; the outsiders being investors and developers outside of Milton). The current, tentative plan is
35 to hold a business appreciation breakfast for the insiders and to conduct one-on-one conversations with
36 the outsiders, asking them pertinent questions that they may not feel comfortable answering in an open
37 environment such as a breakfast.
38

39 Nappi and Duchesneau liked the idea of a business appreciation breakfast. They felt the title was much
40 more approachable and apt, as the Town *does* appreciate its businesses, and should express that.
41 Information would still be obtained, questions would be asked, but it would be less formal than
42 previously discussed. The Chair felt that asking for Town slogans is an important piece. Mossey
43 suggested the slogan, "Why not Milton?"
44

45 Nappi felt that local business owners may be hesitant to attend a breakfast without more information
46 provided. Lombard felt that there should be some concrete information to share with them once they

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1 are there, showing them what the Town is trying to do for them. Mossey and Lombard agreed that this
2 type of event and/or study has been discussed and repeated for decades, and business owners are
3 weary of it. Others stated that the business community wants to see something happen, and until the
4 Town has something to report, Lombard suggested the breakfast be put on hold. The Chair estimates
5 that that there should be some conclusions on the M4D project by January. It was agreed that the
6 vision for both outreach efforts must be clarified.
7

8 Some discussion followed about the breakfast. Ultimately the group agreed that a welcoming, friendly,
9 "thank-you" breakfast was a good idea if it's presented informally. The idea of a big presentation or a
10 keynote speaker was scrapped, with the group favoring a more informal setting. A meet and greet, a Q
11 & A over breakfast, requests for a slogan, and a thank you would be well received.
12

13 **7. MINUTES**

14 **7(A). Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2016**

15 Tabled by default.
16

17 **10. ADJOURNED**

18 Informally adjourned at 5:00 p.m. upon loss of quorum.
19

20 Minutes approved by the Commission this _____ day of _____, 2016.
21
22
23

24 Donna Barlow Casey, Chair

/kt

25 Draft filed with the Town Clerk this 29th day of July, 2016
26
27

28 Filed with the Town Clerk this _____ day of _____, 2016