

**BRANDON AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
JULY 18, 2013**

Call to Order - The meeting opened at 8:35 am

Present: Janet Mondlak, Alyssa Zollman, Bernie Carr, Steve Beck, Jeff and Linda Stewart,

Minutes - Motion by Carr to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2013 as written. Passed

Toolbox - A draft toolbox was written. Steve asked about graphics. Alyssa and Jeff will help polish the toolbox for look, user-friendly, and editing.

Incubator Space meeting - Steve said people expressed interest in working further on this. There have been additional meetings. In the future, some of them will be making a road trip to the Vermont Venture Center in Hardwick to learn about that facility. Who are the investors? How will it be organized? Linda said some of the people involved are very excited.

Business Owners Survey - it has been sent to people

Realtors - Alyssa said she has asked realtors if they would like to join the committee and Marty Feldman from Rowe Real Estate has expressed interest.

Schools - Steve said he has communicated with Neshobe School Principal and they are working with an IT person to "step up their website." Steve is working on communicating with OV. Alyssa said OV has so much potential and interesting programs including Moosalamoo, the only program in the country like it. And the only FT Theater program in the state. These things should be better promoted.

State Economic Development Planning - Brandon's downtown qualifies for this state program since we were impacted by Irene. Consultants met with a group of community people in June and took observations. It is only for downtown. There will be public forums, interviews, etc. "What do we want them to do for us?" For example, are their recommendations that can come from McMaster's surveys? Form-based code? The end result is recommendations with potential funding resources.

DBA - Jeff said DBA is looking into a branding exercise

Planning Commission joint meeting with people from other town organizations Meeting - Alyssa said the meeting was well done. She is looking for minutes. Jeff said he would like to see more of a call for action. Will there be a follow up meeting?

Waterline - Jeff said not all rights-of-way are signed by the property owners. Once finalized, they have to be approved by the state and then bids.

Importance of BAEDC meetings - This group meets once every other month. There should be good attendance, new town manager, someone from selectboard – at every meeting.

Empty Spaces -

- Tubbs is totally full with Woodchuck Cider (storage).
- Pike / Vtrans is renting one of Johnson's empty storefronts for six months.
- Antiquarian bookstore coming into Kimble's is planning on opening in October.
- What about the space by the tracks that Thurstons might be able to use? Perhaps Thurstons need to talk directly to Anita at Blue Seal. Steve to communicate that information.
- Chris Carpenter is trying to help bridge between Elnicki and Beck.
- Midway Oil (Mobil) - plans underway to raze the yellow building.

Commercial Building Information - Steve is working on it.

Economic Development Director Time - Janet said she feels that Steve's time must be accounted for in a variety of ways. He attends a lot of planning and vision meetings. She feels he should be spending a significant portion of his work-week doing other types of work such as follow-up calls, what is happening with certain buildings, writing press releases, etc.

Adjourn at 9:45 am.

Next meeting: Sept 19 at 8:30 am at SAD.