

BRANDON AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 21, 2013

Call to Order - The meeting opened at 8:30 am

Present: Janet Mondlak, Alyssa Zollman, Jim Leary, Bernie Carr, Steve Beck, Jeff and Linda Stewart, AnnMarie Roth, Jim Leary, Devon Fuller, Stephanie Jerome

Minutes - Motion by J. Stewart / Carr to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2013 meeting with the following corrections:

- Carr was not present.
- Motion made to approve minutes was seconded by J. Stewart

Passed

Toolbox - A draft Toolbox document was sent out by Steve. Committee offered input and suggestions. Jeff Stewart was asked to help with presentation and word smithing. There was discussion on how the Toolbox will be used: Website, marketing materials, realtors, REDC and ACEDC, conventions?, promote locally and around Rutland and Addison Counties. A rack card can be printed fairly inexpensively and given out at downtown meetings, Chamber Visitor Center, etc.

Business Owners Survey - Frank said a first draft is completed. The consultant is now working on the Consumer part of the survey. Should have the report in April. About 130 people filled it out. Frank said we are getting some demographic information from the region. There is some census information on-line.

Town update - Devon reported on the town manager search and the hope to have an interim town manager in place within two weeks. Discussion that an appeal has been filed to VT Environmental Court of the medical marijuana dispensary. The appeal was filed by an adjoining landowner.

Ideas and Opportunities and Updates:

Devon said Rutland has branded itself Solar City. There are things we can do. Renewable energies and resources are the future.

Stephanie asked if anyone contacted realtors to ask them to include adding Neshobe School District to their r.e. listings. Steve was asked to do this.

Alyssa said Jeff Guevin of the Planning Commission has requested a joint meeting between the PC and the BAEDC. Perhaps a Monday evening meeting in April.

Bernie said he met with Paul Bruhn of the Preservation Trust of Vermont and Rep. Steve Carr. They discussion downtown tax credits and the possibility of the Learys and the Town collaborating on a tax credit application for an elevator in their joint staircase. Application would have to come from the private sector (not the town). Bernie said that Bruhn indicated that PTV might be able to assist with the relocation of Crosby's if it helps Elnicki with the Smith Block.

Steve and Alyssa went to the VDTM Roadshow last week. They said there was a great discussion on the positive impact of tourism on the economy. Tourism is is the biggest employer in the state. We have to keep working on making Brandon a destination. Partnerships help.

Linda said she has spoken with Doug Sawyer at the Lilac Inn about her idea of a 1% local option tax on meals and rooms with the money to be earmarked for marketing. She said that Sawyer is in favor of it.

Janet asked Steve to bring state sales tax revenue information to the BAEDC meetings showing the last few months of Brandon's sales tax revenues and meals and rooms revenues. The information is public and available on-line.

Alyssa said she thinks the Town website could be made flashier so it is more attractive for the young, etc.

Bernie asked about the VT Tubbs building. Steve said there is a lease from a company to use the space for storage. New England Woodcraft is moving out.

Adjourn at 10:20 am.

Next meeting: May 16 at 8:30 am at SAD.