

**BRANDON AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MAY 21, 2013**

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

Present: Janet Mondlak, Alyssa Zollman, Bernie Carr, Steve Beck, Jeff and Linda Stewart, Stephanie Jerome, Dennis Reisenweaver

Minutes - Motion by J. Stewart / Carr to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2013 as written. Passed

Toolbox - Steve said he added all additional information he has gotten, such as Industrial Park, etc. Stephanie guided Steve to make the Toolbox a document with Links. It should be on-line. Steve will send final draft to the Committee, who will send back edits, and then make it live.

Business Owners Survey - Been getting information back from organizer of survey, Bill McMaster of UVM Extension. He reviewed some of the aggregation and analysis info. The committee needs to determine how they will distribute and use the information: DBA, Town, Chamber, Public. The DBA Economic Restructuring Committee will be working on moving it forward. It will be part of the Toolbox.

Building J at Park Village - June 5 panel meeting - 6:00 - 8:00 pm - Steve said Jamie Stewart of REDC has said if McKernon Group can get a commitment from the town for developing Building J as an incubator, he thinks he can push the REDC Board to support it. He is thinking value-added food production. Discussion on the people who are coming to this forum and others to be invited.

Realtors - Any realtors interested in joining this Board? Alyssa hasn't asked yet. Steve said all the realtors have information on their websites about the school district. They are aware and use as a potential selling point. Stephanie asked Steve to contact the Principals at OVUHS and Neshobe and get the IT people to update the schools' social profiles on realty websites.

DBA - June 4 - The State received CDBG Disaster Funds. There will be money for Rutland County and designated downtowns that suffered damages in the floods of 2011. Rather than a competitive process, all these towns will work with a group of consultants. They are coming to the town on June 4 to meet with DBA, Selectboard, etc., to look at the downtown and do some meetings and forums over the following 4 - 5 months and come up with ideas and to write a plan. There may be connections with money to do some of the things that are suggested.

Planning Commission Meeting - Alyssa said several members of this group met with the PC to better work together. There is a plan for all groups to get together in a facilitated meeting. Date to be chosen.

Brandon Builds - Alyssa said maybe we can use this tag line for other entrepreneurial ideas, such as a business matchmaking service. Something like a Business Mentoring or SCORE. "Mixer with a Theme." "Speed Dating" Might we be qualified as a Enterprise Zone for tax benefits if we are deemed "needy enough."

Commercial Building Information - Survey of rents per square foot? Other information. Bernie had another downtown building owner call him about rents per square foot. He said it needs to get done and published. Discussion on needing to have a complete list of total commercial inventory, rents, vacancies. It should be a list. Dennis said he thinks it is important to have a complete list of businesses in town, how are they zoned? Who opens? Who closes? A lot of work but should be part of a complete and continuously updated spreadsheet.

Follow-Up for Steve:

- Toolbox - June 15 deadline
- Successful June 5 - polished presentation
- Commercial Building Information - start on that after Toolbox
- After June 15, contact the schools regarding IT

Other

- Should Town Manager be at our meetings?
- Warehouse for Thurstons? They need storage. Stephanie said Blue Seal is moving out of space owned by RR on state land, Blue Seal is leasing them. They are an "eyesore". Great opportunity. Steve was asked to contact Thurstons.

Adjourn at 10:15 am.

Next meeting: July 18 at 8:30 am at SAD.