

Whitingham Economic Development Group

Whitingham Municipal Center, Selectboard Office, Jacksonville, VT 05342

**Minutes of** **Thursday, September 27, 2018**

Attendees: Kyle Frey, Phil Edelstein, Jenepher Burnell and Gig Zboray. Gretchen Havreluk arrived late.

Call to order at 6:11pm. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Approval of August 23, 2018 Minutes: **A motion was made by Kyle to approve the Minutes of August 23, 2018 as written, seconded by Jenepher, all in favor.**

Website Update: The new town website is close to launch. A small list of to-do items are being addressed and we think next week it will be ready for final review and testing before launch. EDG members were provided a link to the new site for review.

So far about a dozen businesses replied to our letter inviting them to list their business on the new website. Many of these businesses are already on the current website but we got a few new ones.

Sidewalks: Jen spoke with Jacksonville Electric Company board, they don’t have the money required to fix the sidewalks. There are several state regulations that would hinder the Electric Company such as only a certain percent of their profits from *within the Villages* can pay for the sidewalks – they did not have any profit last year. The Electric board came up with a few questions that Pam Moore is currently researching. The bottom line is that if money were not an issue they would be all for improving the sidewalks.

Phil asked if there was a document explaining the structure of the electric company. Jen replied yes, it is on file with the electric company.

Gretchen would like to apply for a grant for a scoping study to improve sidewalks, street scapes and traffic calming measures. Phil offered that his wife, Ali, has experience writing grants and offered her services. If Ali writes the grant Gretchen will be the grant reader.

All the grants out there require some sort of local match. Gretchen questioned if the town has a line item for grant matching funds. Gig will question the Treasurer.

Gretchen estimates the scoping study will be about $30-40,000. In June of 2019 a bike/ped grant will open with a 20% local match required. There are VTrans transportation and alternative grants that require a 50% match.

Networking Event: The group went through the list of all local businesses and divvied up the list so that the businesses that have not responded to the letter would get a phone call.

EDG members should make all their phone calls by Friday, October 5th and send out an email at that time to inform everyone of the status of their list.

Kyle offered a $75 gift certificate to Spoonwood Cabin as a door prize for the event. Gretchen will borrow a screen and projector from Wilmington to show a PowerPoint presentation that Phil will create about the website.

Review Action Items: Everyone make phone calls, Phil turn the website into a PowerPoint, Gretchen borrow equipment and prepare an oral presentation for the event, Gig speak to Almira about matching funds.

Next meeting: Next meeting is October 25, 2018 at 6pm.

Adjourn **A motion was made by Gretchen to adjourn at 7:45pm**

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray