

Whitingham Economic Development Group

Whitingham Municipal Center, Selectboard Office, Jacksonville, VT 05342

**Minutes of** **Tuesday, August 22, 2017**

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

Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda Gretchen Havreluk called the meeting to order at 7:30am. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes of July 25, 2017 **a motion was made by Phil Edelstein to approve the Minutes of July 25, 2017, seconded by Kyle Frey, all in favor.**

Town Website Update The group reviewed each page of the Website draft designed by Magdalena Sole and agreed that all specs can be forwarded to Stephen Groundwater. EDG members will review each page more carefully on their own and send their comments/suggestions to Gig.

Discussion of website hosting: Although an agreement was made with Gaia Host and the invoice for a year of service has been paid, there was discussion of possibly moving hosting services to a company that will respond faster and has more site capacity. Gig has discussed the problems we are encountering with the hosting of the new website with Stephen Groundwater and left it up to him to decide if and when we need to pursue a new company to provide us with the services required.

Discussion of Farmers Market: Kyle Frey had discussed the idea of moving the Farmers Market to the Eames Village Park for better visibility about a month ago. Charles Sweethill, Market Manager, thought it was a good idea but has not pursued it to date. EDG feels the Farmers Market is not thriving because there is no visible activity from Route 100 to make people stop. Kyle did indicate that almost every Friday was a rain event but his business has been doing well. Kyle volunteered to step in as Market Manager for next year but it is not up to EDG.

Historic Marker Brochure: Gretchen is waiting on the map updates from Jeff Nugent.

New Rails: Gretchen has been playing telephone tag with the Conway School in East Hampton, MA but thinks this project might be on their schedule for the winter semester.

Whitingham Village Center Designation: Gig feels the application is complete she is just waiting on Jeff Nugent for the maps. Gig will send the latest version of the application to all EDG members for a final review and also send it to Richard Amore for his review before submission (due Oct. 2nd).

Telecommunications Phil provided an update about Fairpoint winning a grant to extend DSL to approximately 100 homes in Whitingham. Phil has been working diligently with the owner of VTel, challenged VTel to build more towers and to be able to offer service to 90% of the residents.

EB-5 Program Gretchen notified the group that the State of Vermont has been contacted by the Federal Government to shut down the EB-5 program. This has no impact on Whitingham but could have a huge impact on Mount Snow.

Action Items: Gig will send the website pages to EDG members for careful review. Gretchen will continue to work with Jeff Nugent on the map for the brochure and remind him that we need a map for Village Center renewal. Gig will send out the Village Center application for EDG review and to Richard Amore for review. Phil will continue to work on telecommunications.

Next meeting September 26, 2017 at 7:30am

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

 ~Gig Zboray