

Whitingham Economic Development Group (WEDG)
Minutes: 6/1/16

"These Minutes shall be accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted) at a future meeting of the Whitingham Economic Development Group."

Call to order: 7:35AM, Jacksonville Municipal Center

Officers:

Chair: Gretchen Havreluk

Vice Chair: Jennifer Burnell

Secretary: Phil Edelstein

Members: Jack Keefe, Pamela Pease

Not Attending: Pamela Pease

Completed Past Projects

- 1) Metal plaques on located in Whitingham an Jacksonville
- 2) Scenic Vermont By-Way designation
- 3) Launched Farmers Market (now run by separate committee without direct town involvement)

Current Projects & New Projects for consideration and action

- 1) Banners/flags on poles. Jacksonville Electric has given permission
- 2) Continue to research options to provide better/safer stream flow and flood control in Jacksonville to protect the municipal center, firehouse and nearby homes and businesses.
- 3) Sidewalk and crosswalk improvements in Jacksonville
- 4) Broadband and cell service: develop plan with existing telecom vendors to expand service to 100% of homes and businesses. Phil circulated a report to WEDG
- 5) Create vacant property list
- 6) Develop incentive plan for new and existing businesses to make capital investments in town
- 7) Obtain state workforce data to provide new and existing businesses
- 8) Add WEDG page to Town website and assist town with design and function of town website.
- 9) Riggs Distler: Provide community support for expansion in Jacksonville. Phil spoke to Aimee Reed today about new WEDG members. With prior SB approval, we advised Aimee that the town will provide support at any public hearing that may be scheduled.

Other Discussion

- 1) EDG members to read 2014 report for Jacksonville. Look for ideas.
https://strengtheningsouthernvt.files.wordpress.com/2014/06/eda_jacksonville_final-w-cover_lowres.pdf
- 2) Jen to contact a party that has expressed an interest in utilizing the Briggs building.
- 3) Phil to contact Spoonwood Cabin Creamery to see if they want to join WEDG.
- 4) Jen and Gretchen to review supply and placement of town public relations card at Deerfield Valley Chamber of Commerce and other retail locations
- 5) Create list of hiking trails including VAST
- 6) Gretchen will contact Blueberry Festival for 2016 and next year
- 7) Jack will create local business owners contact list. Town website lists most/all businesses.

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- 8) Motion made by Jen and 2nd by Jack to close the WEDG bank account. Almira was advised. As of 7/1/16 ~\$3500 is available for WEDG projects.

Action Items

- 1) Develop list of action items from above at next meeting.

Next Meeting:

June 15, 2016, 7:30AM, Jacksonville Municipal Center

Meeting adjourned 8:45AM, motion by Jack, seconded by Phil