

Whitingham Economic Development Group

Whitingham Municipal Center, Selectboard Office, Jacksonville, VT 05342

**Minutes of** **Tuesday, September 26, 2017**

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

Gretchen called the meeting to order at 7:34am. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Approval of July 25, 2017 Minutes: **A motion was made by Phil to approve the Minutes of August 28, 2017 with the following correction – the due date for the Village Center Designation is December 31st, not October 2nd, seconded by Kyle, all in favor.**

Farmers Market Email to EDG: The group discussed the email that was received. The EDG does not feel that they can financially support the Farmers Market if it moves out of the village and focuses on one local business. If they want funding the Market will need to stay somewhere in the village. Charles Sweethill’s email states that he will have a meeting with the vendors, and will let the EDG know how they plan to move forward next year.

Financing the Working Landscape Workshop: Gig already sent the info to several local businesses, Gretchen will drop it off at Sprague’s Sugarhouse and Kyle will bring it to Tracy Reed.

Town Website – Update “See & Do” Section: Kyle thinks that things to see are also things to do. He will forward a list to Gig.

Concerns were expressed that the photo heavy website might be very slow to open with terrible internet services, Gig will discuss with Stephen. Typical download speeds locally is only 3-4 megabites.

Whitingham Brochures: the group discussed the map, Gretchen will discuss with Jeff and invite him to an EDG meeting.

Conway School Proposal To have Conway School do this project the cost is $7,000 plus the cost of lodging. Gretchen doesn’t think we would need to pay for lodging because of our location. Just replacing the railing around the culvert is more of an EDG project rather than tackling the Hazard Mitigation aspect. Gretchen will talk to Emily Davis at WRC about the railing.

Whitingham Village Center Designation renewal – application review the application letter was edited. The application is not due until December 31st. Gretchen brought up the topic of the tax credits for new businesses, it was then tabled.

Connectivity – Governor’s visit: 109 locations in Whitingham will be offered broadband (internet) because of State grant funding. Dan Purjes told the Governor that he has a software business that he had wanted to move to southern Vermont but because of the lack of connectivity he moved that business to Utah. A VTel test tower will be installed on Dan Purjes hill to check the signal.

Review Action Items add to a future agenda that we need to create a Hiking Map/Brochure; Gretchen will contact WRC, she will also contact Spragues and Kyle will contact Tracy Reed about the Working Landscapes forum.

Next meeting October 24, 2017 at 7:30am. Hazard Mitigation/Resiliency Plan public meeting Wednesday, October 18 at 6pm in the main hall of the Municipal Center.

A motion was made by Phil to adjourn, seconded by Kyle, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:49am.

Respectfully submitted,

 ~Gig Zboray