

**Town of Woodstock**  
**Economic Development Commission**  
**October 9, 2017**  
**Special Meeting**

Commissioners present: Barry Milstone, Tom Weschler, Joe Dinatale, Mica Seely,  
Michael Mahlik, Keith Anderson, Charlie Kimbell.  
Visitors: Sally Miller, Beth Finlayson, Mary MacVey, Mary Riley.

1. Call to Order

Barry Milstone called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2. Citizen Comments – none

3. Approval of September 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion of Michael Mahlik, second Mica Seely.

4. Grants

Tom Weschler noted yearly commitments of about \$50,000 for grants however there may be additional consideration necessary before the grants are distributed.

A. East End Grant

Sustainable Woodstock received a grant previously. From this grant conceptual drawings from GPI Engineering were presented. The drawings encompass the entire east end and show mixed use possibilities including housing, business / retail and utility use.

B. Application Presentations

i. Village Tree Replacement

Don Wheeler, Village Tree Warded has requested a grant to replace about 20 trees in the village. The cost of each tree would be \$800 to \$1,000.

ii. Norman Williams Library stair refurbishing

Library steps need refurbishing. This is a \$32,000 project and the request from the Options Tax fund is for \$15,000.

iii. Farmhouse Pottery sewer extension

Farmhouse Pottery owners are considering an expansion of the business, including food. Septic limitations prevent this. A municipal sewer extension would cost about \$60,000. and the grant request is for \$45,000.

5. EDC / Options Tax Updates

a. Financials

Tom Weschler has no report this evening.

The website payment will be made soon.

Information about finances will be submitted to all commissioners as soon as it is available.

Joe Dinatale suggested financial reports at each meeting.

b. Wireless Woodstock

There was no report this evening.

The Website was mentioned. Mr. Weschler noted there has been no agreement with the Chamber of Commerce formally adopted. This should be completed soon.

c. Village Beautification

Mica Seely noted that landlords do not seem interested in lowering rents to help fill storefronts. Subcommittee members feel that a “wow” factor is necessary. The immediate suggestion is to hire a landscape architect. The cost would be about \$20,000 to hire a landscape architect who would be hired to develop a landscape plan for the village.

The questions of Board of Village Trustee involvement and amount and source of funding for implementation were introduced.

Keith Anderson recommends the Planning Commission be included in any conversation about development of a Master Landscape Plan. Keith and Joe will meet to discuss next step of involving Town and Village in Village beautification discussions.

Mr. Weschler mentioned the resignation of Gail Child from the Commission and noted that recommendations for a candidate to be appointed to the commission are welcome.

6. Offsite Follow-up

a. Structure (director / commission / subcommittees)

Charlie Kimbell charted and posted all ideas/priorities expressed at the off-site meeting. The ideas were reviewed and discussed. Some ideas were combined with others to summarize the priorities of the commission going forward.

Following discussion the following priorities were identified through a selection process by the commissioners.

- Hire an Economic Vitality Director/Coordinator/Assistant that will be supported by the EDC
- Expand and promote recreational assets
- Redevelop [www.woodstockvt.com](http://www.woodstockvt.com) into a high-functioning, marketing engine
- Provide resources to help start new businesses or help existing businesses expand Establish a beautification fund

b. Subcommittees

Working to bring business, jobs and families with children into the area remain the focus.

On a motion of Tom Weschler, second Mica Seely the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.