

**Town of Woodstock  
Economic Development Commission  
December 1, 2016  
Meeting  
Town Hall, Woodstock, Vermont**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

1. Call to Order: 7:01pm.
  - a. Commissioners in Attendance: Tom Weschler, Joe DiNatale, Barry Milstone, Gail Childs, Charlie Kimbell, Keith Anderson, Nick Ferro, Matt Stover.
  - b. Public in Attendance: Beth Finlayson, Meghan Mahoney, David Lively, Courtney Lowe.
2. Citizen Comments: David Lively, co-owner of the Woodstock Inn, offered his views on the current PR effort.
3. Approval of Minutes, 11/17 Meeting. Motion made by Tom Weschler, seconded by Joe DiNatale, that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote.
4. Community and Economic Development Fund update.

November deposit of \$83,855 for quarter ending 9/30/2016 was 12% above the amount for the same quarter in 2015, indicating a stronger economic performance in rooms, meals and alcohol sales. The unencumbered funds now total \$197K. The annual run rate (revenues received over the past four quarters) is approx. \$240K. The other key metrics (WES enrollment, # of registered voters, visits to the Welcome Center, # of primary households) were not available at the meeting but were requested by commission members.
5. Grant Requests:
  - a. Pentangle Council on the Arts, \$15,000. Chairman Kimbell announced that Pentangle had withdrawn its request at the present time.
  - b. 2017 Grant Funding Rounds. It was moved by Joe DiNatale and seconded by Gail Childs that the following funding rounds be established for 2017:
    1. Completed applications due: 1/15, EDC Review 3/2, Select Board Review 3/21.
    2. Completed applications due: 5/15, EDC Review 7/6, Select Board Review 7/18.
    3. Completed applications due: 9/15, EDC Review 11/2, Select Board Review 11/21.

The motion carried on a voice vote.

Barry Milstone suggested that the criteria for community projects such as the Pentangle request be revised. He agreed to put together some suggestions and bring it to the January meeting of the EDC.

c. Presentation to Woodstock Select Board on 12/13. The recommendations being presented to the Woodstock Select Board for their consideration are the applications approved for Wireless Woodstock and Woodstock Community Television, as well as the Fund Allocation approved at the 11/17/2016 meeting, plus the funding rounds approved (above).

6. Proposal for Joint Development of [www.woodstockvt.com](http://www.woodstockvt.com). Matt Stover and Meghan Mahoney of the Chamber of Commerce presented the proposal for creating a separate group, consisting of 6 people (2 from the EDC, 2 from the Chamber of Commerce, and 2 “at-large” marketing experts) to develop a joint web-site development and management plan to be funded in part by the EDC. (Presentation attached separately). It was moved and seconded to form the six member group with a recommendation due the EDC in January. Carried on a voice vote.
7. Pursuit of the Big Bets for Economic Development. Most of the groups had just begun to form a strategy to pursue the big bets. The commission agreed to have more information for the January meeting.
8. EDC Organization:
  - a. Meeting dates for 2017. The proposed meeting dates were moved and seconded for the 2017 year. Proposed schedule for 2017: 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1, 7/6, 8/3, 9/7, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7.
  - b. Charlie shared that Mary Riley is not available on Thursday nights. The commission decided to explore recording the meetings and having them summarized in minutes by Mary or another person.
  - c. Chairs. It was moved and seconded that Barry Milstone and Tom Weschler be elected as co-Chairs. Tom offered that his acceptance would be predicated on the minutes being recorded per the above, and that a writer be commissioned to write an update on the activities of the EDC on a quarterly basis and published in the Vermont Standard. With that caveat, the commission elected Barry and Tom to share the leadership of the EDC beginning in January.
9. Adjournment: 9:00pm.

Submitted by Charlie Kimbell.