

**OTOWN OF CASTLETON  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ECONOMIC  
REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 6:00pm  
Castleton Town Hall  
263 VT – 30  
Bomoseen, VT 05732**

**PRESENT:** Mark Brown; Chair, Ted Molnar; Vice Chair, Jennifer Jones; Parliamentarian, Mary McIntyre, Mark Grossarth; Committee Member, Martha Clifford; Committee Member (participated by phone), Tim Munks; Committee Member, Richard Combs; Select Board Liaison, Mike Jones, Town Manager; Eliza LeBrun; Recording Secretary, Paul Costello; Director of Vermont Council on Rural Development, Nick Kramer; Vermont Council on Rural Development.

**ABSENT:** Janet Currie; Planning Commission Liaison.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was held via ZOOM Video Conference and was called to order by Mr. Brown at 6:30pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. Combs made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Molnar seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

**Mr. Combs made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 13, 2020 as presented. Mr. Molnar seconded the motion. All were in favor of the minutes and the motion passed.**

**UPDATE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBER MARY MCINTYRE BUSINESS LISTINGS**

Mrs. McIntyre and Mr. Grossarth visited the Castleton Community Center to introduce the Community Economic Development & Revitalization Advisory Committee. Mrs. McIntyre noted that they were received very well but that there was not a lot going on that day. She also noted that there were lots of people at the Community Center that were from other Towns, Granville, Pittsford, Hubbardton and Brandon. Julie Finnegan was also present talking about the school bond.

Mrs. McIntyre began a list of local businesses that included the following 05735, 05732, 05743, West Rutland and Hydeville. For just 05735 there are approximately 314 businesses, a lot of these are home businesses and same owners.

One issue is that there are addresses but no telephone numbers. Perhaps the Committee should send a letter to start contacting these businesses. The Town website only has 7 businesses listed right now. There was discussion about ways to gather phone numbers and start a directory.

**GUEST SPEAKER: PAUL COSTELLO FROM VT COUNCIL ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Brown introduced Mr. Paul Costello, Director of Vermont Council on Rural Development. Mr. Costello introduced his associate, Mr. Nick Kramer. Mr. Costello explained that the VT Council on Rural

Development is charged by the Federal Farm Bill to help coordinate state programs to serve rural communities.

“The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of the locally-defined progress of Vermont's rural communities. VCRD is a dynamic partnership of federal, state, local, nonprofit and private partners. Actively non-partisan with an established reputation for community-based facilitation, VCRD is uniquely positioned to sponsor and coordinate collaborative efforts across governmental and organizational categories concerned with policy questions of rural import. (<https://www.vtrural.org/about>)”

Mr. Costello discussed Community Visits with the members of the CDERAC. Mr. Rosenthal shared that the Town of Poultney worked with the Vermont Council on Rural Development for promoting outdoor recreation several years ago and is happy to speak to the Select Board about this Committee coming to Town to help with this.

Mr. Costello explained that the first step is to build a committee to include people of all walks of life in the community. Then the VCRD asks them questions to determine the 6 to 9 different things that the committee sees as things they would like to see done in their community. Once the 6 to 9 different projects are determined, then VCRD helps to coordinate community conversations that help to set priorities, build task forces, connect to resources and move communities forward.

Mr. Rosenthal shared with the CEDRAC how positive the experience was for the Town of Poultney to work with the Vermont Council of Rural Development.

Mr. Costello noted that as the CEDRAC has already been formed, this is one of the first steps the VCRD recommends. The next step would be to invite the public to participate in some public meetings. Inviting the public to these meetings will help to build community support by giving the community ownership. Mr. Costello explained that during these meetings, we would build a list of problems that the community would like to address. Mr. Costello reinforced that at these meetings everyone is equal, and all ideas are welcome. From the list of problem's, the group creates, Mr. Costello recommends that only 3 highly visible and important are chosen, then *“you will hit one out of the park and hit 2 doubles with the other 2.”* This will show the public that you are serious about making changes, and maybe engage more people to participate.

Mr. Brown thinks that the Town of Castleton is ready to move forward with this. The Committee agrees.

Mr. Costello informed the Community Economic Development & Revitalization Committee that the next step will be to have the Town write a letter of request to the Vermont Council on Rural Development. The earliest that VCDR would be available to start would be in 2021, however that is not that far away.

#### **GUEST SPEAKER: ED BOVE FROM RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mr. Bove was not able to connect to the ZOOM meeting.

#### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

There were no citizen's comments.

## **COMMITTEE COMMENTS OR CONCERNS**

Mr. Molnar recommended coming up with questions to discuss with each business so that the same information can be gathered from each. Mr. Molnar recommends that Committee start putting together questions and

Mr. Molnar would like to invite someone from the University or the Bridge Committee to the next meeting.

Mrs. Clifford recommended a letter of introduction to local businesses.

Mrs. Jones wrote a grant requesting \$5,000 to the Vermont Arts Council for an art installation at Crystal Beach. To represent the history of Castleton and Bomoseen from pre-history to current times.

Mr. Molnar would also like to add to the agenda something about having the youth of Castleton paint the fence wall at the Transfer Station.

Tim Munks thinks a survey and getting feedback to focus on a few topics is a great idea.

The next meeting will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of April at 6:30pm.

## **ADJOURN**

**Mrs. Clifford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**