

**Town of Castleton
ECONOMIC & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF APRIL 20, 2017- 6:00PM
TOWN OFFICES**

MEMBERS: J. Leamy, M. Brown, J. Larson, G. Hadeka, E. O'Shea, M. Shea (Ad Hoc)

MEMBERS ABSENT: B. Starer, C. Laperle

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by J. Leamy.

**ORGANIZATION OF BOARD: ELECTION OF OFFICERS: CHAIRPERSON, V. CHAIRPERSON
CHAIRPERSON**

MOTION: M. Brown made a motion to nominate J. Leamy as the Chairperson. Seconded by J. Hadeka.
All in favor. Motion Carried.

VICE CHAIRPERSON

MOTION: M. Brown made a motion to nominate J. Larson as the Vice Chairperson. Seconded by G. Hadeka.
All in favor. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION OF TAX INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Draft proposals of tax incentives were handed out to members and public attendees.

J. Leamy asked the members and public to read the draft and to bring suggestions or new ideas back to the committee.

UPDATE ON SAND HILL PROPERTY & OLD FIRE STATION

J. Leamy asked M. Shea if there was any concrete offers on the Sand Hill property.
M. Shea replied that there was not.

The Select Board did decide that since the property was donated by the University, they would run all offers by the University administration.

M. Shea did reply that there are 3 concrete proposals for the old Fire Station. The Select Board is investigating all 3. The Select Board is waiting on some legal advice pertaining to the property.

L. Jepson asked how much the Town was asking for the property on Sand Hill.

M. Shea replied that it was \$125,000.00

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT- JANET CURRIE

J. Currie informed the members that the new Town Plan was almost completed. It has been submitted to the RRPC, where the Energy issue will be addressed. The Commission is also working on revamping some town and zoning ordinances. The Commission would like to make it easier for businesses to come into town.

J. Currie did note that the Commission agrees that things need to change and that the citizen's will need to cooperate with the changes in order to bring in businesses which will help lower the tax base.

REDC UPDATE- L. JEPSON

L. Jepson handed out information regarding the declining populations in Rutland County by towns. REDC has hired a marketing firm to help to market Rutland County. They are interested in rebranding the area as the "Killington Valley". They feel this will help attract the visiting population to the area.

They want to use digital technology along with market incentives and tax incentives.

S. Gilbert talked about a program called “Let’s Dish”. It was created by the Rutland Young Professionals, this group has about 180 members. This program helps employers bring in potential employees to the area to help them get acquainted with the town and what it has to offer.

J. Currie stated that there is a problem with local permitting in Castleton and asked the members what the Economic Development Board does.

G. Hadeka replied that they facilitated the Sand Hill property deal with the University.

M. Brown noted that they would like to bring business into town, noting that ACT 250 is a deterrent.

J. Currie stated that the Town of Castleton needs a bank and who would be in charge of soliciting a bank to move into town.

E. O’Shea replied that he had spoken to a Bank President. It might look attractive from the outside for a Bank to move into that location, he noted that the Bank would not own the building and it is not cost effective with the high turnover of college students.

J. Currie stated that the bank did not have to go into the same building. The town needs to have changes, business needs to come in so the tax base can change.

J. Currie stated that if there are no bids on tax sale properties at the time of the auction, 365 days later the town owns the properties.

K. Sparks updated the members on the progress of the construction at the old Edgewater Inn. They are in full blown construction, every building in being renovated. There will be 51 rooms opening on May 12. All the restaurants are being overhauled too.

Z. Hale noted that there are not any single family homes in Castleton for employees that work in the area and asked the members why Castleton was not a member of REDC.

L. Jepson replied that they had not formally asked.

J. Leamy stated that they the Commission would be a make a suggestion to the Select Board about joining REDC.

L. Jepson asked about being invited to the next meeting.

J. Leamy set the next meeting for May 18, 2017 at 6:00pm at the new town office.

ADOURN

MOTION: E. O’Shea made a motion to adjourn at 7:00pm. Seconded by M. Brown. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully,

V. Waldron

Date of Approval