

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM COMMISSION
MINUTES of MONDAY, JANUARY 11th, 2016
Municipal Offices

PRESENT: Bill Ackerman
Gerrie Russell
Bernie Krasnoff
Nancy Koch
Rob Megnin

ALSO PRESENT: Dick Horner Interim Town Manager
Amy Morrison Director KPAA
Events & Marketing Coordinator

AGENDA: Call to Order
Approval of Meeting Minutes
Citizen Input
Resort Report
KPAA Report
Killington 2020: Setting Priorities for the Future
Commissioner's Concerns
Date for Next Meeting
Adjourn

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 PM.
On a motion by Rob and seconded by Nancy, the minutes were approved.

CITIZEN INPUT: None

RESORT REPORT: Rob Megnin

Due to the weather, extraordinary high temperatures and lack of snow, the Resort has had a rough start and continues to struggle this season. The coming week has colder temperatures and some snow forecast so hopefully there will be a turnaround. Occupancy rates for this coming weekend are good and ski school registration is up. Many smaller ski resorts lacking the resources of Killington have not been able to open. The weather has created many challenges among them staffing. Some employees have been let go and the question is will they be available when snow finally arrives. The Killington Road business community has also suffered because of lack of visitors to the area. The opening of the tubing park has yet to be determined. The Learn to Ski Program is doing well despite the weather conditions.

Rob suggested the EDTC budget will be affected and a discussion followed about how we will meet our obligations. The golf course debt will have to be paid but in other areas there may have to be some adjustment. It was suggested that this concern be stated in a formal motion and be presented to the Selectboard. A motion by Rob states that the EDTC Commission requests the Selectboard to consider the impact this season will have on the EDTC budget for this fiscal cycle and the next and if some adjustments need to be made at this point in time. The motion was seconded by Bill.

KPAA REPORT:

Amy Morrison

KPAA has surpassed its membership goals plus new member retention numbers are up. Roaring Brook Construction has submitted a \$30,000 bid for the covered bridge that is to be built by Casey's Caboose. The funds will be raised through private donations.

At a meeting attended by REDC, KPAA, EDTC and RCC it was announced that REDC has reorganized and is partnering with Castleton University. They have hired two new employees whose focus will be economic development. Bill and Amy attended this meeting and made the point "what about Killington". It is hoped that this relationship plus new efforts by the state under the banner Vermont Futures Project will lead to changes on the state level. One area that needs attention is keeping the younger generation here after they have been educated. One suggestion is for colleges to go to a tri-semester where students would be in school during the summer and work in the tourism sector during the winter. The College of St. Joseph and Castleton University are two schools in the area that Killington might partner with. Affordable housing is another problem area that needs to be addressed. Bernie asked about op-ed opportunities in Boston or New York newspapers and it was noted by Rob that it might be better as part of an overall marketing campaign.

KILLINGTON 2020: Setting Priorities for the Future:

The memo that will be given to the Selectboard listing potential initiatives to be presented at the January 26th Town Meeting was discussed and amended. Under New Firehouse, it was thought it might be the catalyst for a town center depending on what property is selected. Under the Gateway project the question is should it be continued. All of the commission members agreed that affordable housing should be added.

The next scheduled meeting will be Monday, February 8th, 2016 at 3:30 PM at the Municipal Offices.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Gerrie Russell