



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 27, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Bill Ackerman, Chairman  
Rob Megnin  
Nicole Levasque  
Gerrie Russell  
Bill Mercier

**ALSO PRESENT:** Seth Webb, Town of Killington (the “Town”) Manager ( the “Manager”)

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Amy Morrison, Jim Haff

**AGENDA:**

1. Call to order.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 11/25/13
3. Citizen Input
4. Chamber Report
5. Resort Update
6. Commissioner’s Concerns
7. Special Projects Update
  - A) Park and Ride Facility
  - B) Mountain Bike Trail Development
8. Strategic Plan Update
9. Date for next meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Chairman, Bill Ackerman.

The motion to approve minutes of Monday, November 25, 2013 was tabled until next meeting.

**CITIZEN INPUT:**

Mr. Haff discussed the original concept of the EDTC stressing that it was meant to have an “advisory” role reporting to the Selectboard. It was suggested by Mr. Haff that we revisit releasing the sales option tax to allow the resort and the town to work together to bring more summer season business to the town. He feels the commission has moved in the direction of “beautification” projects rather than increasing the number of events. If we release the sales option tax to the resort, the town can still have the benefit of the meals and rooms portion. Mr. Haff continued by saying he thought the resort was struggling for cash because of needed repairs for structural projects rather than investing in zip lines, bicycle trails or entertainment events. He hopes the commission will start a dialog with the resort regarding the possibility of working together and this might lead the town to vote again on the tax and how it is used. It was pointed out that in the past the town has questioned the commitment of the resort especially with new owners. He feels that this is a discussion that should be on the agenda going forward. Mr. Megnin added that the resort is working on a long range plan that will be presented to the town via presentations to civic groups, the

chamber and other groups. It was suggested that a presentation be given to the Killington Active Seniors since they are long time residents, voters and taxpayers.

**CHAMBER REPORT:** (Bill Mercier)

The Holiday Fest was a success considering the weather was a factor. The date has been changed for the 2014 event to the first week in December. The annual Wine Festival is scheduled for July 18-20 and will incorporate the new Peak Lodge. The interior of the new location, formerly Bill's Country Store, has received positive feedback. Amy Morrison was asked to clarify her new position with the chamber and stated it was two separate positions. She is working 30 hours for the town and 10 hours for the chamber each week. Mr. Haff is still waiting for the 501 C 3 paperwork. It was stated that the chamber is actually a 501 C 6. He is still waiting for copies of the 990 tax returns.

**RESORT:** (Rob Megnin)

The weather has been a challenge. The season started quite well. The budget is off but ahead of last year. This may be due to the major storm "SANDY" which caused cancellations at that time. The "Learn to Ski" program is sold out. There are 1200 young people arriving from England during the week of March 15<sup>th</sup>. The resort is asking for help in hiring enough ski instructors. The Peak Lodge is finished and this was celebrated with a Grand Opening Event well attended. They are being inundated with requests for private events and the Hospitality Staff is responding well to these demands. The NASTA will be meeting here March 24<sup>th</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup>. The resort would like the town to support this event via sponsorships etc. Many events are already planned including walk about fashion shows and a CEO Summit that is open to the public media. As mentioned previously, the resort is working on a strategic plan to increase summer activities and guests. It will include Kid's camps, zip lines, new mountain bike trails for experts and beginners, and entertainment events. When the report is ready, it will be presented to groups within the town.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATE:** (Seth Webb)

The Park and Ride Project is expected to begin in July or August. The town is in the process of obtaining a 50 year lease on the property designated for this project. Out of the \$103,000 projected budget, \$92,000 is from grants. The kayak landing site involves obtaining a wetland permit and a surveyor to prepare a deed since part of the property belongs to the resort. The Mountain Bike Trail development is progressing. The resort has tough trails requiring expertise and special equipment. The town hopes to have trails available for the less experienced and intermediates. Some of the proposed trails are on private property and some go through US Forest Service Land. All need permission and that process is underway.

**STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:** (Seth Webb)

The process of approval involves the plan being supported by this commission, voted upon and then presented to the Selectboard. When we are able to view the resort's plans, this may require changes to the Strategic Plan now in place. At this time the members of the commission have not had time to read this report in depth so any decision will be tabled until the next meeting. A discussion involving the options tax came up again and everyone agreed that an increase in property taxes was not acceptable. Mr. Haff made the point that bicycle paths were easy to build but not so easily maintained. Stowe Area Associates and Vail Valley were mentioned as entities that manage the combined resources of resorts and the towns where they are located. These are mostly private foundations that rely on memberships and money from town budgets to manage assets for the common good. Seth believes we have a regional presence that is not being capitalized on.

The next meeting of the EDTC is scheduled for Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

On a motion made by Bill Mercier and seconded by Nicole Levasque, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45

PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gerrie Russell  
Draft 1/28/14