

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2014**

PRESENT: Bill Ackerman
Bernie Krasnoff
Rob Megnin
Gerrie Russell

ALSO PRESENT: Seth Webb, Town Manager
Amy Morrison, Events Coordinator

PUBLIC PRESENT: Tracy Taylor

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 10/20/14
3. Citizen Input
4. Chamber Report
5. Resort Report
6. Town Report
7. Option Tax reform
8. Mountain Bike Park
9. Commissioner's Concerns
10. Date for Next Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 PM.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of October 20, 2014

CHAMBER REPORT: (Amy Morrison)

The Vermont Holiday Festival will be held December 5th and 6th at the Grand. Pleased that the Welcome Center is starting to be used by community groups as a meeting space.

RESORT REPORT: (Rob Megnin)

The resort has been open for three weeks and so far the weather is cooperating.

TOWN REPORT: (Seth Webb)

The wayfinding system is almost complete with 6-7 new signs ready to be placed. The Park and Ride facility will be finished tomorrow. Comcast will cooperate in removing the last pole by mid-December. Amy Morrison and Jeff Alexander attended the T.E.A.M.S. Conference and have at least 10 solid prospects for new events including a yoga event and arm wrestling. Thanks to Amy for her work in getting Long Trail to renew their sponsorship for the Cooler in the Mountain concert series. We are also negotiating for additional support. It will be expanded from 6 to 7 weeks in 2015. In 2010 attendance was approximately 250 people per show. In 2014 it is estimated that attendance was about 1350 people per show.

OPTIONS TAX REFORM:

As part of the agenda at the 11/17 meeting of the Selectboard, the public was invited to discuss the possibility of a vote on the Options Tax Reform on a March ballot. However, it was felt that the actual question of whether or not to have this question on the ballot was lost in the discussion since personal opinion regarding property taxes was the focus. The Selectboard can decide by doing nothing. It was thought that the EDTC should send a follow up letter stating that we support the initiative being on the ballot in March. A suggestion was made to investigate the demographics of the town and reach out to residents. Another point made was to put pressure on the Selectboard to insure the initiative is on the ballot. A positive development would be to have the KPAA up and running. Progress is being made in that the new bylaws will be voted on by the BOD in December and by the full membership in September 2015 at the next Annual Meeting. The community is in a defensive mood so the official position of the EDTC should move forward accordingly with a game plan in place. A first step will be to invite the KPAA to attend our meeting. Seth and Amy will write a letter supporting our position that a vote should be held. We authorize Bill Ackerman to sign for the group.

MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK:

We have received approval from Holly Knox, District Ranger for the Rochester and Middlebury Ranger Districts of the GMNF for the implementation of the Killington Bike Trail Additions Project. This decision authorizes approximately 15 miles of mountain bike trails including the construction of the actual trails, bridges and culverts. The estimated cost will be \$450,000, some of which can be obtained through grants. The question before us is how to proceed. The town will not realize income from the project directly. Indirectly, income will be generated by the additional visitors the project is expected to attract. An important development is the formation of a new chapter of the V.M.B.A. Here in Killington. There will be a meeting to formalize this at the KMS on December 9th at 5:00 PM. At this time EDTC will table the discussion on how to support this new opportunity.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11th at 3:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Gerrie Russell