

# **Mendon Economic Development Committee**

November 14, 2017 at 6 PM at the Town Office.

Attendees: Sara Tully, Town Administrator, Brittany Charles, Mendon Mountain Orchards, Mark Latzky, Virtual Solutions, Patrick Kitchin, Cortina, Cort Jones, People's United Insurance Agency, Fred Bagley, Planning Commission, Lyle Jepson, Rutland Economic Development Corp., Julia Purdy, Rutland Herald

## **Appointed Members:**

Sara Tully reported that at the recommendation of those present at the last MEDC meeting, the Selectboard moved to postpone the official appointments made to MEDC. Any interested parties are welcome to bring ideas and comments and participate formally or informally on the committee at this point. In the future, the Selectboard will be happy to appoint official members to the committee. Please contact Sara Tully if you anyone is interested in learning more about MEDC and members will continue to do outreach to local businesses and residents.

## **Minutes:**

Sara Tully presented the minutes from the October 24<sup>th</sup>. Minutes are posted on the Mendon Website at [www.mendonvt.org](http://www.mendonvt.org)

## **Rutland Economic Development Corporation:**

Lyle Jepson provided information and discussed the Vermont Council on Rural Development. This organization is dedicated to helping Vermont communities develop their capacity to create a prosperous and sustainable future through coordination, collaboration, and effective use of public and private resources. Lyle recommended MEDC invite VRCD's Executive Director, Paul Costello to meet with the group. Lyle also provided information about the State of Vermont's Village Center Designation Program. If the town has a village center designation, there are grant funds and program benefits the town can look to seek after. Lyle also discussed the town's ability to implement a Tax Stabilization Policy which could be used to incentivize new commercial investment by stabilizing real property taxes within the town. A copy of the Town of Brandon's Tax Stabilization Policy was provided to the group.

Lyle also discussed the opportunity for MEDC to work with REDC and be active participants with each community's goals and objectives. Specifically, Real Rutland & The Killington Valley. A video was watched by the group. Lengthy discussion about how the marketing initiative of Real Rutland and the Killington Valley can help economic development in the entire region.

Sara Tully recapped that last year, REDC and the Rutland Chamber of Commerce asked the Mendon Selectboard to commit to \$1 per resident (\$1,060) annually for 5 years. A petition was required to get the appropriation on the ballot for Town Meeting 2017. The voters approved the appropriation. This year the Selectboard is proposing to the voters a budget for the Mendon Economic Development Committee of \$2,000 of which the Killington Valley would be funded at \$1,060 leaving \$940 for the committee to use.

The group thanked Lyle for coming and sharing this information with us.

### **MEDC Mission, Goals and Objectives:**

The drafts of the mission statement were reviewed and discussed. Below is the product of the discussion.

“To promote economic stability and growth in the town of Mendon through the retention of existing business, recruitment of new business and industry, promotion of residential property value and to provide the resources that advance the general well-being of the community.”

### **Business Survey:**

Previously the committee discussed reaching out to existing and former businesses of Mendon to get feedback about doing business in Mendon. Marc Latsky provided a sample survey used by Creative Economy. Sara Tully recommended individuals review the survey before the next meeting and provide suggestions for information we would like to gather from Mendon businesses to help create a survey. The group also discussed reaching out to vacant commercial properties to gather information about plans for those properties. Cort Jones requested we look up what percent of the Grand List is Residential versus Commercial.

### **The Rutland County Community Outreach:**

Discussion regarding reaching out to the Mendon community and also the Rutland County community.

Tasks before the next meeting:

1. All members will continue to do outreach and get more people to the table.
2. Richard Wilcox will contact Sara Gilbert, Casella's to discuss the organization of the committee.
3. All members will review the business survey and provide feedback at the next meeting
4. Patrick Kitchin will contact the Town of Brandon to discuss their economic development strategies.

The next MEDC meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2017 at 6 PM at the Mendon Town Office.

Attachments: Vermont Council on Rural Development, Village Center Designation Program, Town of Brandon Tax Stabilization Policy