

Town of Mendon

Special Selectboard Meeting

November 5, 2018

Members of the Selectboard present: Richard Wilcox, Geoff Wells, Scott Bradley

Members of the Planning Commission: Teri Corsones, Phil Douglas, Neil Langer, Fred Bagley, Justin Lindholm

Members of the Mendon Economic Development Committee: Mark Latzky, Brittany Charles, Cort Jones, Sara Tully

Residents and Visitors present: Chris Gandin, Barstow Unified Union School District, Elysa Smigielski, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Tyler Richardson, Rutland Economic Development Corp and Paul Costello, Vermont Council on Rural Development

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM at the Town Office.

R. Wilcox welcomed everyone for coming and hearing a presentation by Paul Costello from the Vermont Council on Rural Development. R. Wilcox specifically thanked Tyler Richardson, Rutland Economic Development Corp for putting the Town in touch with P. Costello to hear the programs he offers.

P. Costello provided an overview on the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VRCD) and the Community Visit Program. “The VRCD’s Community Visit Program is a way for towns to engage and bring together their residents, set common goals and directions in a neutral and facilitated structure, and access resources that will help them take action on those goals.” The Community Visit program happens over for months that will bring together a group of wide mix community members to represent various interests and get ideas on the table for discussion. The Community Visit Program will form a “Visiting Team made up of state, federal, non-profit and philanthropic experts to create intensive partnerships and tailored work plans for long-term local success”. There will be scheduled focus forums and community discussion where residents bring forth ideas for the future of the community and set priorities. Then tasks forces work to forward community goals.

The program is offered to towns at no cost. The town’s residents are expected and required to assist with the logistics, outreach and community meals.

In order to schedule a Community Visit, the Selectboard would write a letter of request that will be evaluated by the VRCD committee. Once a town is selected the Selectboard is no longer “in charge” of facilitating the program. P. Costello explained that the VRCD has already scheduled Community Visits through 2019 and that they would be looking at Mendon for 2020. It was stressed that the Mendon community could act on their own without the program and P. Costello offered his advice as to how to facilitate discussions and goal setting.

P. Costello provided examples of goals and programs that resulted from Community Visits in Rutland City and Killington.

Lengthy discussion about coordinating the goal to participate in the Community Visit as part of the Town Plan rewrite.

Various members present provided Paul Costello with a history of Mendon's development, the success and failures of an economic base along Route 4, challenges businesses face with regards to the speed limit, facts about Mendon and our community that make Mendon special as well as current ideas that are being discussed by the Town Plan rewrite and the creation of Mendon Economic Development Committee this past year.

The Selectboard, Planning Commission and the Mendon Economic Development Committee supported the Selectboard submit a letter of request for the VRCD to schedule a Community Visit in Mendon.

There being no further business, R. Wilcox moved to adjourn the Selectboard Meeting at 7:40 PM. Motion seconded by S. Bradley. The Selectboard unanimously approved the motion.

Date approved _____

Richard Wilcox

Sara Tully, Selectboard Clerk

Geoff Wells

Scott Bradley