

Board Minutes

May 17th, 2018

Thursday May 17, 2018

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Mt. Ascutney Resort, 485 Hotel Road, Brownsville, VT

Directors Present: William Dakin (by phone), Bob Flint, Jerry Fredrickson, Peter Gregory, Bob Haynes, Tom Kennedy, Walter Martone, Jim Masland, Joshua “Bushrod” Powers, PJ Skehan

Also Present: Mark Condon, Allison Hopkins, Nathan Maxwell, Stuart Rogers

Call to Order

Tom Kennedy call the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and Mark Condon recorded the minutes. A quorum of directors was present.

Approval of December 11, 2017 Minutes – Action:

There were no corrections or comments made to these minutes as presented.

Motion to approve December 11, 2017 minutes as presented:

Motion: Jerry Fredrickson

Seconded: Peter Gregory

No further discussion

Motion Carried Unanimously with Jim Masland abstaining.

Election of Officers- Action:

The Slate of Officers for FY2019 as presented are:

Bob Flint– President

Peter Gregory – Vice President

Bob Haynes – Treasurer

Tom Kennedy - Secretary

Motion to approve the Slate of Officers as presented:

Motion: Jerry Fredrickson
Seconded: Joshua "Bushrod" Powers
No further discussion
Motion Carried Unanimously

Adoption of FY19 Work Program and Budget- Action:

Walter Martone noted that the FY19 Budget as presented had a \$50 addition error in the Expenses. He requested the Budget be amended to correct this error.

Motion to adopt the FY19 Work Program as presented and Budget as amended above:

Motion: Joshua "Bushrod" Powers
Seconded: Jerry Fredrickson
No further discussion
Motion Carried Unanimously

FY18 Grant – All Partners

GMEDC- Bob Haynes

Bob H. stated that GMEDC continues to work on the Creative Economy in our area, including both sides of the Connecticut River. This included working with Opera North as they move some of their productions away from the Lebanon Opera House to Blow-Me-Down Farm at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, NH. Productions at the new site will be held in 600-seat tents. They also do their set construction work in Windsor.

Bob H. notified the group that GMEDC now has a Disaster Revolving Loan Fund specifically for small-businesses impacted by natural disasters such as fires and floods. It was funded by a \$30K USDA grant and still has \$15K available to lend. If anyone knows a small business that may qualify for a loan, please let GMEDC know.

SWCRPC- *Allison Hopkins*

Allison said that SWCRPC is working on a large mapping program to find and map social vulnerabilities in our region. The end-goal is to have 3 interactive online maps with a vast wealth of information of anything that is a resource to vulnerable populations. They are now working with 211 to push it out to a larger audience and have found that local fire departments having been finding it useful. They have also been working with Weathersfield and Springfield on health readiness. In Weathersfield they will be soon having a community meeting to see where they are on this, whereas in Springfield they are looking for key community members to interview. They will also be doing health audits, recommendations and inventory for towns plans in our area.

TRORC- *Peter Gregory*

Peter reported that like TRORC has been working on Creative Economy and 3CVT, keeping the momentum going in the 40-town region including writing a USDA grant to get some extra funding for their efforts. TRORC also does website maintenance for ECVEDD. They are also doing some complementary work with Southern Windsor on the Mt. Ascutney Partnership wellness and public health project, trying to get Gifford Hospital involved.

SRDC- *Bob Flint*

Bob F. stated that SRDC has been working with Matt Dunne on an entrepreneur incubator project centered at the old Park Street School in Springfield. SRDC has an option to buy the school and take advantage of the high-speed internet in the town. This will remain one of SRDC's tasks for FY19. SRDC has also been working on Emergency Planning to help business should natural or other disasters happen. They have done up an emergency preparedness one-sheet for businesses that is now being distributed. SRDC also updates the district website with data on housing prices and public assistance. In FY2018 the volume of housing sales went up dramatically, while sales prices vary town by town. Overall in the 40-town district, 14.3% of the population is on public assistance, compared to an overall state rate of 16.3%. This varies town-by-town as well with some, such as Springfield's 28% on public assistance, being incredibly high.

FY19 EDA Grant Work Plan – Discussion and Board Input

Tom Kennedy stated that ECVEDD is currently in process of developing the work plan for the FY19 EDA grant and would be interested in hearing if Board members had any comments or input on our plans for the year. We are working on a very short turn-around time of two weeks on the grant application. Tom asked each partner organization to as to what their plans were for FY19.

SRDC – Bob Flint said that the entrepreneurship project will continue but will no longer be doing the emergency preparedness work. Instead they will be acquiring an under-performing revolving loan fund that serves the region and being aggressive on getting those funds out to businesses.

SWCRPC- Allison Hopkins said they will continue with their healthy planning language with Springfield and one other town as their targets. Another piece will be the food access planning work and seeing if they can get those modules out and some education on them.

GMEDC – Bob Haynes said they will continue to work on knitting together the creative community on both sides of the river in collaboration with TRORC.

TRORC – Peter Gregory said they will continue with the creative economy support and look at public health in Orange County so they can replicate some of their successes they had in Windsor County. They will also continue with the website maintenance. He asked that if any partner had an economic project they would like highlighted on the website to please forward it to him.

Treasurers Report- Peter Gregory

Peter stated that the ECVEDD has received the whole \$70K for this year's EDA grant, which comes in 4 advances. This has all been sent out to the four entities. The self-assessment happened earlier in the year which helps with the cost of insurance and the annual meeting. The EDA checking account currently has \$1,885.97 much of which will go to this meeting and other expenses.

Other Business

There was no other business raised.

Adjourn- Action

Motion to adjourn: 6:22 pm

Motion to Adjourn: Bob Haynes

Seconded: Joshua Powers

No further discussion

Motion Carried Unanimously

The Spring Workshop followed.