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## Economic Development Committee

### Minutes

June 20, 2013

**Committee members present:** Joe Colangelo, Melissa Levy, Matt Sayre, Michael Bissonette, Steven Gladstone, Andrew Frost

**Committee members absent:** Heidi Simkins

**Others in attendance:** Dawn Francis, Colchester Town Manager; Alex Weinhagen, Hinesburg Town Planner

1. **Call Meeting to Order** - Joe Colangelo Called the Meeting to Order at 7pm at Town Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor
2. **Discussion with Dawn Frances** – Dawn Francis, Colchester Town Manager, former Director of Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce and former Assistant Town Manager of Essex, interacted with the group and shared her vast experience with economic development. First she shared her experience managing the Colchester/Essex/Winooski revolving loan fund. She noted the difficulty of managing the loan locally and recommended the Town of Hinesburg partner with Community Capital of Vermont (or like agency). Conversation then moved to the history of the Colchester Community Development Corporation – a nonprofit, separate organization from the town. This corporation was highly successful in the 90's and received significant funding from the Town of Colchester, along with dues from local businesses. It then went through a dormant period and the Town pulled funding due to lack of activity. Now coming back to life. Dawn mentioned one benefit of a non-profit development corporation separated from the Town is the relief from open meeting laws. The Town of Essex, however, does not have a nonprofit corporation and they have been successful by 1) branding the community; 2) finding a niche. Dawn also mentioned the recent completion of the ECOS report and the limited supply of industrial space in Chittenden County. This all led to a good discussion on Hinesburg's opportunities and needs. Opportunities discussed included: 1) value added ag; 2) agriculture; 3) biking and trails; 4) B&B's; 5) energy innovation; 6) CVU – including their adult education training programs; 7) Rte 116. Needs discussed included: 1) sewer/water capacity increase; 2) traffic congestion concerns; 3) extension of 3-phased power to the industrial district on the southern part of town; 4) shared office-meeting space.
3. **Discussion with Alex Weinhagen** – Alex met with the committee at the end of the meeting. Alex mentioned the Town's license for 'Survey Monkey' that the committee could take advantage of as a way to do some

initial outreach. Alex also discussed the opportunities in Hinesburg for 'Mult-Purpose Farm Activities'. We discussed options for barns being used for wedding, event space, and other like activities as opportunities for farmers, large land owners in Hinesburg.

4. **Minutes of May 23** – The Minutes of May 23 could not be approved.
5. **5 year Economic Development Plan** – Committee members need to work on their 'homework' for the next meeting (see March 23<sup>rd</sup> Minutes). In addition, Andrew will think of and propose some survey questions for the committee to review at the next meeting.
6. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, July 25, 7pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Town Hall.
7. **Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm**