

Essex Economic Development Commission (EDC) Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2022

Online via Microsoft Teams

Hybrid at 81 Main Street, Essex Junction

Attendees

Chair Brian Shelden, Vice Chair Jeff Benjamin, Ms. Ta-Tanisha Reddita

Staff Owiso Makuku, Darren Schibler, Robin Pierce, Jean O'Sullivan

Public Ken Signorello

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00am by Chair Shelden.

Work Session

Technically today's meeting was a work session. Therefore minutes are not technically required. Therefore, this is an informal summary.

2022 Direction

The purpose of this work session was to discuss a high-level direction for the EDC for 2022. Ms. O'Sullivan had several ideas on a possible direction.

After discussion amongst commission members and staff, the commission's consensus was:

- 0Continue to flesh out the business contact list
- 1Recruit two new members; some with an eye for specific skills – like marketing – that the commission does not currently possess
- 2Reach out to other committees and boards to reduce the EDC's siloization.

Integrate Essex business workforce needs better with the Essex Tech Center

Public To Be Heard

Mr Signorello stated he'd like to add some more farming and forestry focus to the EDC, including as part of the business contact list. He mentioned that he had noticed several unincorporated sugaring and farming operations in his travels around Essex.

Chair Shelden agreed that that kind of business would likely fall through the cracks of our data collection methodology. He asked if Mr Signorello would share what he'd learned with the Commission.

Mr Signorello declined to share his information; citing his lack of EDC membership as his reason.

Next meeting

The commission will next meet at 8am Thursday February 3, 2022.

Adjournment

Chair Shelden asked for a motion to adjourn at approximately 8:55 am. Vice-Chair Benjamin moved and the motion was seconded by Ms Reddita, and then passed 3-0.

Submitted by Chair Brian Shelden January 26, 2022