

SRDC Meeting Notes from

February 24, 2015

8:00 am

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OFFICE OF THE MANAGER

Present: Doug Gurney, Patti Putnam, Bob Kendall, Bill Dakin, Kristi Morris, Bob Flint, and Paul Kowalski.

Absent: Mark Tanny, Jason Thom, Sam Coleman, Tom Kennedy, and Jen Johnson.

Doug Gurney began the meeting at 8:03 am. There was no quorum, therefore no action was taken.

1) **Executive Directors Report:** Bob reviewed his report. He reviewed last week's House Commerce and Transportation Committee tour. The legislative committees were pleasantly surprised by some of the growth and projects in this region of the state. He also discussed the Southface Village project in Ludlow, which has just been approved for an EB-5 offering. He met with the project developer at the site last weekend and said that they are hoping to raise \$34 million through the EB-5 program.

2) **Old Business:**

- a. **J & L 1 Update:** Bob said that a ruling in the Bradford Oil case came on December 23, 2014 and that none of the parties have appealed, so the matter is closed. He talked about the next steps for SRDC and the various moving parts associated with going forward. He said it would be a busy summer for SRDC.
- b. **Jones Center:** Heather has been doing a great job with selling the items secured with the former ME Baker, to recover some of our losses. She has also overseen the cleanup of that area of the building, to prepare it for future occupancy. Bob said that we have a couple of prospects so far.
- c. **Bryant's Building:** Bob and Doug said that took Tom Yennerell, the new Springfield Town Manager, through the building, which has survived the winter in reasonable condition. Bob indicated we still needed to complete the initial application for VEDA funding.
- d. **Artisan Surfaces Building:** Bob said that the proposed solar project for this site has been canceled as it was determined the roof could not handle the weight of solar panels.
- e. **Precision Park Sign:** Mark was not at the meeting, but Doug and Bob said that he's been trying hard to get this project completed.
- f. **DR2 Grant:** Paul stated that the regulatory log jam was starting to free up so that payments can start to be processed. There are also changes in staffing at the Brattleboro office with their grant administrator position.

3) **Other Business:**

- a. **Regional Educational Facilities:** Bill Dakin suggested that a future meeting with the RVTC Board may be beneficial. Bob will look into having a combined meeting at some point in the future.
- b. **Economic Development District:** Sandy has been working on research, with Bob, on labor and business statistics for the update of the region's CEDS plant.
- c. **Legislative Session:** Bob said that he expects he will need to testify in the coming weeks on economic development bills in the Legislature. He said that the RDC's are working with the House Commerce and Senate Economic Development committees on ideas for what should be proposed.
- d. **WIB:** A vote on a nominee for the WIB Board will be postponed to March, since there wasn't a quorum.
- e. **SRDC Policies:** Paul is working on proposed policies for consideration at the March meeting. Bob said that we need to update our existing policies to ensure compliance with our EDD agreements.

The meeting ended at 9:05 am.

Next Board Meeting March 24, 2015

8:00 am

Respectfully,

Sandy Clifford

SRDC Office Manager