



NVDA
*Northeastern Vermont
Development Association*

~ **MINUTES** ~

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
The Belvidere, Newport, VT
December 09, 2010 6:30 PM

THOSE ATTENDING:

Directors: Rep. Lynn Batchelor, Brent Beck, Mary Berlejung, Fred Cushing, William Davies, Jean Dedam, Jeanne Desrochers, Louisa Dotoli, Conrad Doyon, Martha Feltus, Stephen Gendreau, Tom Joyce, Real Lanoue, Rep. Michael Marcotte, Paul Monette, Gregg Noble, Sherry Norris, Rep. Gary Reis, Peter Rodin, Beula-Jean Shattuck, David Stoner, Kenn Stransky, Rep. Vicki Strong, Laurence Thompson, Robert Walker, John Ward, Jr., Leonard Wellman, Patricia Whitney, Rep. Sam Young

Guests: Vincent Dotoli, Trish Sears, Robin Smith, Lee Walker

Employees: Shannon Bedor, Steve Patterson

The meeting was called to order by President Kenn Stransky at 6:30 PM.

Minutes

A motion by Conrad Doyon, seconded by Beula-Jean Shattuck to accept the minutes of July 22, 2010 as mailed, carried unanimously.

Update on Newport Projects

Trish Sears, Executive Director, Newport City Renaissance Corp. spoke with regard to the role of the Renaissance Corp. with relation to Economic and Community Development for downtown Newport. The Corporation is made up of four teams: design, promotion, organization and economic restructuring. Newport recently went through a branding session and now has chosen Newport Genuine By Nature as their brand name. She also discussed briefly form based codes and how they affect the downtown area of Newport. Downtown buildings are now being looked at by how they are formed not by their use. She also touched on various other projects that they are working on around Newport. She stated that Newport is open for business.

Paul Monette, Mayor of Newport spoke with regard to the process of form based codes and bylaws for Newport. He spoke about the changes form based codes will have in downtown Newport. Together with the Newport City Renaissance Corp. they are looking to bring new businesses to the Newport area.

Status of NVDA Buildings

Steve Patterson gave an update on NVDA buildings. The Newport Incubator Building has been sold. Mr. Mulkin from Newport purchased the property and as of now plans to keep the current tenant there. NVDA still rents an office in downtown Newport.

The Charles Carter Business Resource Center has seen more interest in recent weeks with one potential tenant viewing the building today. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Lyndon State College who will be conducting a machinist training program. They will be leasing space in the warehouse and conference area. While talking about job training Steve took a moment to advise the board that NVDA recently signed an agreement with VT Technical College. A class on weatherization training will be offered in the Newport area in January and February and will be held at the North Country Career Center. For more information on this please contact Lorna Higgs at the NVDA office.

Board Development and Orientation for New Members

Kenn Stransky recognized the new board members present, Leonard Wellman, Lyndonville; Rep. Lynn Batchelor; Rep. Sam Young and Rep. Vicki Strong. NVDA Board of Directors' Resource Manuals were distributed. Any board member wishing to obtain a copy please contact Shannon Bedor at NVDA. He also asked any board member who may have a particular expertise to contact Steve Patterson if willing to help out on any projects.

Funding Status

Steve Patterson addressed the board about funding for NVDA. He will be keeping his eye on the legislature with the election of the new Governor. Steve believes the appointments the Governor has made so far will be favorable to NVDA and he believes we will continue to have a strong relationship with the agency. In the Legislature, there is a change in the leadership, a change in the makeup and given the financial issues they are preparing to confront, it is going to be a challenge to retain funding at the level that we had last year.

One way NVDA has managed to save money is switching health insurance providers, which was a recommendation from an Executive Committee meeting held in November. NVDA has also been very cautious in replacing job vacancies as another means of saving money.

FY2010 Audit should be coming before the Executive Committee at the next meeting and will then go onto the Full Board.

Status of Current Projects

Steve Patterson advised the board that a significant grant was recently awarded from the US Department of Labor to do a study on tourism, value added agriculture, economic cluster and core economic sectors within the Northeast Kingdom.

Any other business

Kenn Stransky introduced Gregg Noble and Tom Joyce board members who work within the telecommunication industry and are involved in expanding broadband throughout the Northeast Kingdom.

A motion by Robert Walker, seconded by Beula-Jean Shattuck that the NVDA Board of Directors' recognize the hard work that Shannon Bedor has performed this past year was approved on a voice vote.

A motion by Martha Feltus, seconded by Tom Joyce that the NVDA Board of Directors' recognize the hard work that Tracy McIntyre has performed this past year was approved on a voice vote.

A motion by William Davies seconded by David Stoner that the NVDA Board of Directors' recognize the hard work that Alison Low has performed this past year was approved on a voice vote.

A motion by John Ward Jr., seconded by Tom Joyce that the NVDA Board of Directors' recognize the hard work that Doug Morton has performed this past year was approved on a voice vote.

A motion by Jean Dedam, seconded by Conrad Doyon that the NVDA Board of Directors' recognize the hard work that Lorna Higgs has performed this past year was approved on a voice vote.

A motion by Michael Marcotte, seconded by Louisa Dotoli that the NVDA Board of Directors' recognize the hard work that David Snedeker has performed this past year was approved on a voice vote.

A motion by Beula-Jean Shattuck, seconded by Conrad Doyon that the NVDA Board of Directors' recognize the hard work that Judy Butson has performed this past year was approved on a voice vote.

A motion by Jeanne Desrochers, seconded by Conrad Doyon that the NVDA Board of Directors' recognize the hard work that Steve Patterson has performed this past year was approved on a voice vote.

A motion that the NVDA Board of Directors' recognize the hard work that Laurie Stillwell has performed this past year was approved on a voice vote.

A motion by Kenn Stransky, seconded by Robert Walker that all of the board members of this board stand together to applaud and celebrate our dedicated staff.

There being no further business a motion by Conrad Doyon, seconded by Patricia Whitney to adjourn the meeting, carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.