

Northern Vermont Economic Development District

Minutes from April 3rd, 2018

Location: Northwestern Medical Center, St. Albans, VT

- Meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM at the Green Mountain Conference Room at NMC
- Northern Border Regional Commission grant workshops were held in in Montpelier at ACCD where 12-15 attended and in Hyde Park at the Green Mountain Tech Center where approximately 40 people attended. The Board's consensus was that NVEDD and ACCD need to do a better job of working together to publicize and organize the workshops.
 - Christine suggested we have access to the NBRC letters of intent.
 - There will be another meeting in Hyde Park on April 11 at 12:30 which will allow applicants to present their project and maybe there can be some collaborations that can come out of the meeting. Catherine was to follow up with ACCD
- Regarding the eligible grant area for NBRC we were informed that the new version of the Farm Bill will stipulate that all of Vermont will be eligible for funding and not just the NVEDD region. This is still dependant on the Farm Bill passing with its current language.
- Discussion focused on region wide NBRC applications such as rural wastewater treatment facilities in hopes of getting infrastructure in the ground
- Motion to accept the minutes was made by Reg B and seconded by Christine M. motion passed unanimously.
- There was a brief discussion re: a REDS project which would be focused on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. At this time VAST has run out of money. Sarah was unable to attend to talk about next steps. There is potential for the Legislature to put some money into the project if the amount could be matched.
- At this point the Board moved on to a presentation by NVEDD Board Member Amy Brewer the Health Education Coordinator of Northwestern Medical Center. The presentation was focused on the impact of Healthy Community Design on Economic Development focused on Swanton , VT. **Amy has a power point and if anyone is interested in receiving it please contact Amy.**
 - The Swanton Success Story, basically started with a \$75,000 "Get Fit and Healthy" grant and has emerged into town revitalization and enhancement transformation with more than \$200,000 received in public and private funding last year. Healthy outcomes include walking bus routes, recreational paths, playground enhancements, park developments and a walking bridge across the Missisquoi River. Economic activity has increased with a new Farmer's Market, new jobs and downtown improvements. Initial assistance came from Mark Fenton who is a walking expert that helped with the planning and design of the walking routes and recreation path.
- The meeting adjourned at 3:05