Northern Vermont Economic Development District

Meeting Minutes October 13, 2026

Meeting was held in Newport, VT at the Gateway Center the meeting was held in person beginning at 1:00.

- Co-Chair Pat Ripley called the meeting together at 12:50. Thank you to NVDA for providing lunch and Carter for organizing.
- Please see the attendance matrix for those in attendance
- Brent R made the motion to accept the minutes from the June 2nd Board meeting and the motion was seconded by Catherine D.
- Tim shared that the Board is down two representatives, one from NVDA and one from Franklin/Grand Isle
- Everyone had received a copy of the CEDS approval letter from Katherine Trapini at EDA. Catherine D. thanked everyone for working on the updated strategy, especially Abby Long for her efforts. We are good for 5 years for the next rewrite. Moving forward we just need to do an annual review each year.
- The Board received a presentation on all of the Newport developments that are on the table. Doing the presentation were Joe Gunter, City Manager, Rick Ufford Chase Mayor and Carter Finnegan Council President. Discussion focused on the "Pit", Sacred Heart and the potential for 400 new housing units. Questions included the status of the existing State office building, the boardwalk ownership, other Newport projects and politics.
- We then did a Board Roundtable of new and interesting projects within our member's regions. What are some successes and what are some failures?
    - Andy touched on the South Hero Town Meeting renovation
    - Catherine touched on a large railroad grant to upgrade the train trestle between West Swanton and Alburg
    - Discussion focused on the CHIPS program and how it is difficult for small towns to participate.

    - Tasha touched on the VTrans Pause Program which funds benches and picnics to be placed on the LVRT
- Tasha encouraged the Board to look at grant opportunities that all three regions could participate in……similar to the Lamoille River Hydrology grant we all participated in.
- Upcoming events:
    - On November 4th NEK Together is where residents come together to determine regional priorities.
    - The Rumble in the Kingdom is a business pitch competition and will be held at St. Johnsbury Academy.
- Motion to adjourne was made by Abby at 2:40 and seconded by Tasha.

The next meeting will be a virtual meeting and will be held December 1st.