

SHELBURNE SELECTBOARD Meeting Minutes -- 09/24/11

Present: Vice Chair Jaime Heins, Mary Kehoe, Mike Ashooh; also Town Manager Lee Krohn, Finance Director Peter Frankenburg, and others per the sign in sheet.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Approve agenda: Motion by Ashooh to approve; seconded by Kehoe and approved 3-0.

Public Comments: none.

Heins introduced the topic of the evening's forum, economic development, with a focus on business retention as a first priority; and also introduced all of the invited panelists, who included

Jon Copans, Vermont Center for Rural Development

Ted Brady, Deputy Secretary, VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development

John DuBrul, owner, The Automaster

Frank Cioffi, President, Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation

Matt Cohen, founder/owner, Fiddlehead Brewery

Eli Lesser-Goldsmith, co-owner, Healthy Living

Catherine Collette, co-owner, Burlington Bedrooms

Don Turner, Milton Town Manager

Tim Williams, owner/operator, Archie's Grill and The Scoop

Mary Anne Sheahan, Executive Director, Vermont Talent Pipeline

Heins seeded the conversation with questions to the panelists, who each responded from their experience or as appropriate to the questions. Opportunity was also provided for questions/comments from the audience.

Issues and concerns raised, whether by one or multiple panelists and audience members, included:

Need for a shared vision for Shelburne's future

Need for clarity on desired types of development

Zoning rules (and interpretation of rules) as an impediment

Need to work with partners (GBIC, Efficiency Vermont, etc...)

Consider contacting VCRD for a "community visit"

Concern for decreasing housing starts

Difficulty finding employees

Lack of adequate daycare

Questions about availability of transit options

Housing costs

Underappreciation of, and adversarial relationship with, the business community

Consider hiring an economic development officer to help promote Shelburne, assist existing businesses,

prospect for new businesses, assist with process issues, and facilitate dialogue toward new and

improved processes and systems.

More detailed notes from the forum are attached to these minutes.

Wastewater allocations: due to timing and circumstance, these were not addressed. The forum concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn.

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For the Selectboard

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Date

SHELBURNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT  
September 24, 2019

Economic Development means:

- Sustainability
- Invest in the long term for the benefit of everyone
- Creating opportunity/wealth
- Thriving community vs stagnant community
- Building a community's capacity for shared and sustainable improvements and economic wellbeing of residents

What can Shelburne do to promote business development?

- Reach out to businesses – dialogue – make it easy to expand when the time comes
- Government need to reach out – “Open for business and we’re here to help you”
- If project doesn’t fit, how can we help to make it fit within the Town’s zoning plan
- PREDICITABILITY for economic development and growth
- Listen to business owners and those creating jobs and opportunity
- State and municipal bureaucracy says “no” due to Act 250 - Say “YES” to ideas
- Zoning and image problems in Shelburne – must be changed in order to get back in the game
- Active marketing - we WANT to be back in the game
- Retention is #1 concern – holding on to what we have
- Engaging business owners, listening to them and identify common themes – work together to solve problems – communication and dialogue builds cohesion

How can we better engage community?

- Too easy for someone to oppose a project who is not a stakeholder
- Common sense approach to the rules that are on the books
- Create dialogue between businesses and Town – more opportunity for discussion is needed
- Planning and Zoning Directors need to go out and visit businesses instead of waiting for them to come to Town – bring the government to the business so the business can run its business

Inventory what is there (Rt. 7) in terms of commercial buildings and development opportunities – how can we fit the types of businesses that we want in these spaces?

- Build a plan of what we want

What other State and regional economic development initiatives are available to the Town to help retain and grow businesses?

**IDEAS**

Illuminate – what do you think about when you think about Shelburne? Needs to be more than just the major attractions in order to keep people here. <https://www.thinkvermont.com/>– economic development marketing

Develop a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce - how to engage workforce to stay in VT – affordable housing

## Engage community

Accelerate business climate – provide resources for businesses to learn and grow – GBIC, Small Business Development Center, VT CRD

Strengthen original economy – define niche – don't try to do everything at once

Community Development Block Grant Program

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/communitydevelopment/programs](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs)

Vermont Training Program <https://accd.vermont.gov/economic-development/funding-incentives/vtp>

GBIC believes Pre-K is one of the best investments for economic development in terms of drawing 40 somethings to the area and leveling playing field in terms of poverty – another area of investment is in middle and high schools - give students more skills in terms of career, vocational, or technical education Schools – development of trades curriculum - need for workforce with training in the trades

Rally businesses and community around common goals – education, housing, transportation – identify one or two things that you want to take on as priorities – this makes the Town much more enticing to programs that the state has to offer

What workforce challenges do you face?

- Housing affordability and commute time in order to afford housing
- Promote trades as a viable career
- Unreliability of workforce

Do we need an Economic Development Committee or Business Development Director?

- Tap into GBIC and VT Council on Rural Development as resources
- Volunteers/committee fatigue – invest in staff person/professional to provide the predictability
- Seize on VT weening itself off of fossil fuels

CATERING TO THE FREELANCE AND GIG ECONOMY

How do we support the people working from home?

- Office sharing/co-working spaces