

Springfield Regional Development Corporation
Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2015
8:00 am

Present: Patti Putnam, John Tansey, Bill Dakin, Mark Tanny, Bob Kendall, Jason Thom, Kristi Morris, Paul Kowalski, Jenevieve Johnson, and Bob Flint.

Absent: Doug Gurney, Sam Coleman, and Tom Kennedy.

The meeting was called to order by Patti Putnam at 8:04 am.

- 1. Review of Minutes for March 24, 2015 meeting:** A motion was made by Bill Dakin to accept the March minutes as submitted, seconded by Bob Kendall. So moved.
- 2. Review of March 2015 Financials:** The financials were reviewed. A motion was made by Patti Putnam to accept the financials as submitted, seconded by Bob Kendall. So moved.
- 3. Executive Director's Report:** Bob reported that the exit 7 Park & Ride will be closed beginning May 4th. He said that he has been trying to work with the State on arranging for some of the SRDC-owned lots on Clinton Street to be used for this period, but we have had a difficult time reaching an accommodation because of insurance concerns.
- 4. Old Business:**
 - a. J & L 1 Update:** Bob said that the good news is we had a positive meeting to revise the existing MOU with the Division of Historic Preservation. The not so good news is that any demolition will not take place in 2015. Bob said that we need to complete an "environmental review" of the site in order to have the Town apply for the CDBG that would be used for this work. We will be approaching the Selectboard to make a request from the revolving loan fund to proceed with the environmental review. Bob and Doug gave the Board the background on the Correctional Facility agreement and the provisions that relate to the J & L project.
 - 1. EPA Grant Activities:** Ten bids have been submitted to do the remediation work along the riverbank behind J & L. A contractor will be selected in May. This is being funded through the remainder of the EPA grant and needs to be spent by September.
 - b. Jones Center Status:** We are working with a client that is looking at leasing approximately 12,000 square feet. A floor plan has been drawn up and we will be meeting this week to look at the site with them. Bob said he hopes to have a lease for review by the Board for the next meeting.
 - c. Bryants Building:** Bob said that with J & L on hold, Bryants moves forward. Stone Environmental is drafting a Corrective Action Plan for the ends of the building. He said that we are awaiting word on an application for an EPA Cleanup grant and would be proceeding with a VEDA application as the CAP work proceeds.
 - d. CDBG - DR2 Grant:** Paul stated that he had put in his third round of requisitions. Things are moving along well now and running much smoother. He hopes to be done with reviewing requests by next week.

5. Other Business:

- a. **Regional Educational Facilities:** Bob talked about the Makers Space that will be opening later this spring at RVTC. He said that this is a community space where people can work on projects with equipment and tools provided. SRDC and RVTC have been working together on this and Bob has met with people around the state to discuss how to work on a larger project. He said that this could be part of the Bryants redevelopment should there be enough demand in the region.

 - b. **Economic Development District:**
 - 1. **CEDS Update Progress:** Bob updated the board on the work that SRbeen doing to update data from the 40-town EDD region for the update of the existing CEDS plan. He shared a preliminary look at the number of households on public assistance in some of the communities in the SRDC service area.

 - c. **Legislative Session:** The RDC's of Vermont publicly expressed their support of S.138, an economic development bill drafted by the Senate Economic Development Committee. He indicated the bill was currently in the House Commerce Committee. As passed by the committee, Bob said that this bill includes a variety of potentially useful ways to stimulate the State's economic development.

 - d. **FY 16 Budget:** At this time the budget is being worked on. By next meeting there should be a complete draft presented for approval.

 - e. **SRDC Staffing:** Bob stated that Cynthia Porter may be coming in short term (1 day a week) to help out with the finances and bookkeeping. The position has not yet been heavily advertised as Bob said he's considering different options.
6. **Executive Session-** A motion was made to go into Executive Session at 8:44 am by Bob Kendall, seconded by Bill Dakin. So moved.

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Bob Kendall, seconded by Jason Thom. So moved.

Patti Putnam adjourned the meeting at 9:21 am

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Clifford
Office Manager

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