

Springfield Regional Development Corporation
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2015
8:00 am SRDC Offices

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OFFICE OF THE MANAGER

Present: Doug Gurney, Patti Putnam, Bill Dakin, Bob Kendall, John Tansey, Jason Thom, Paul Kowalski, and Bob Flint.

Absent: Mark Tanny, Sam Coleman, and Tom Kennedy.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Doug Gurney.

- 1) Review of Minutes for August meeting: Motion made by Bill Dakin to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Bob Kendall. So moved.
- 2) Review of July & August Financials: Motion made by Bill Dakin to accept the financials as presented, seconded by Bob Kendall. So moved. Bob noted that Bryant's would be having its own account in the future. Bob also said that Cynthia Porter would be coming in on a weekly basis to assist with the business operations of SRDC, starting in mid-October.
- 3) Executive Director's Report: Bob spoke of attending the NEDA conference the previous week in Syracuse, NY and presented a handout entitled "Components of a Successful Economic Development Program." He pointed out several areas that SRDC has done well over the years. One piece that was notable was the speed of permitting in other states. He said that, in Connecticut, the target time for having all permits in place is 6 – 8 weeks, which is unrealistic in Vermont. Bob shared the challenges that Imerys has had with a potential expansion project in Ludlow.

He also reported to the Board on the National Brownfields Conference he attended in Chicago earlier in the month. He said that we are very fortunate to have the strong partnership we have with the Southern Windsor County RPC, DEC and EPA. He indicated that wasn't the case in other parts of the country.

Bob also said that he had a private meeting with Shap Smith, House Speaker and candidate for Governor. He seemed somewhat surprised by some of the socio- economic issues that were discussed. The conversation was very constructive.

- 4) Old Business:
 - a. J & L 1 Update:
 1. EPA Grant Activities: While work was being done in cleaning up the former grinding swarf area behind J&L1, new oil in the soil was discovered. We are waiting for additional sampling data to determine whether there are PCB complications that would set the cleanup back further. Bob's hope is that more work can get done before cold weather sets in.
 2. BERA: The first BERA meeting will be next week at the SRDC office. The BERA team includes a variety of state agencies as well as us, the RPC, the Town and EPA. There are a number of questions that need to be resolved, including how cross-contamination is dealt with. Bob said an example of that is asbestos-covered PCB material, which involves different agencies.
 - b. Jones Center: Bob updated the Board on the progress that's been made with Keen Studios to occupy space in the Jones Center for their new light manufacturing operation. A motion was made by Bob Kendall to authorize Bob Flint to execute a lease with Keen Studios. Motion was seconded by Bill Dakin. So moved.

- c. Bryants Building: Bob and Doug said that this was moving forward on a positive note. Bob said that he hoped to have an application before the Board next month to authorize proceeding with a VEDA application for funding to do more structural work, fencing, and engineering and design work.
 - 1. CAP: Corrective action plan for the ends of the building have been drafted.
 - 2. Leased Space: As of August 1, 2015, Imerys Talc began leasing space to house heavy mining equipment for their potential construction project in Ludlow. A new wall, door and interior electricity is now all in place.
- d. CDBG-DR2 Grant: Paul has been working tirelessly at this. There are two requisitions left for funding submissions. However, Paul said that the overall process has become much more stringent. Paul must send all of his work to Brattleboro for initial review. They in turn send it all to Montpelier for further scrutiny. He said that we are all trying to work through this as quickly as possible, but the clock was running.

5. Other Business :

a. Regional Educational Facilities:

- 1. VTC Meeting: Bob said that he met last week with Dan Smith, President of VTC. VTC is looking at widening their horizons and being more cognizant of additional programming in this area. The discussions included sectors like advanced manufacturing and health care.

b. Economic Development District:

- 1. CEDS Update Progress: Bob said that the finished CEDS update has been submitted to EDA.
- 2. FY16 EDD Grant: The FY 16 grant for the EDD is going through the EDA review process and we are awaiting final approval.

c. CRDC Discussion: Nothing new to report.

d. Annual Meeting: Set for November 11, 2015 and the Governor is confirmed as our Featured Speaker. (After this meeting the date was changed to November 10th. The venue will be Table 19 @ CPCC).

- 1. Nominating Committee: Bill Dakin and Bob Kendall will serve at the Nominating Committee for this year and will present nominees at the Annual Meeting.

- 6. Executive Session: A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Bob Kendall at 8:26 am, seconded by Bill Dakin. So moved. A motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:55 am was made by Bob Kendall, seconded by Bill Dakin. So moved.

Doug Gurney adjourned the meeting at 8:56 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Clifford

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 26, 2015