

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
Minutes of June 21, 2023

I. ROLL CALL. Town Manager Jeff Schulz, Select Board Members Lydia Petty and Charlie Morse, and Economic Development Director Tom Davis.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled): None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No action on the minutes.

IV. DISCUSSION:

- a. Review of projects in the Economic Development Department in the following areas:

Business – the following topics were discussed:

- RUSTIC RESTAURANT COMMUNITY REVITILIZATION GRANT
- 70 DEPOT SQUARE - TRAIN STATION / BANK BUILDING WORKING WITH NORTHFIELD DEVELOPMENT CO. - PURCHASE, RENOVATION, RESTAURANT, APARTMENTS, TAX CREDIT PROGRAM
- CARRIER COFFEE ATTEMPTING TO CLAW BACK COMMUNITY REVITILIZATION GRANT FUNDING FOR CARRIER COFFEE, WHO COMPLETED A COVID-DELAYED EXPANSION AND COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR SOME GRANT FUNDING
- BETA TEST CO-WORKING SPACE AT GREENLIGHT REALTY ON EAST STREET TEST THE VIABILITY OF A CO-WORKING SPACE IN OUR DOWNTOWN BY OFFERING LIMITED SPACE IN THE GREENLIGHT REAL ESTATE OFFICE
- NIFTY-THRIFTY SHOP INSTALLATION OF A CLOTHING COLLECTION CONTAINER ON TOWN PARKING LOT BEHIND THE STORE ON THE COMMON.
- MOKSHA FARM MOKSHA IS CONSIDERING OPENING A FARM STAND AND EXPANDED FOOD SERVICES (COFFEE, FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE, EXPANDED "ON THE GO" FOOD ITEMS LOCATED ON RT. 12 ACROSS FROM TROMBLEY GREEN HOUSE.
- 57 FREIGHT YARD WAY - OLD NUARI BUILDING WORKING WITH PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY WHO WANTS TO BUILD 4 DWELLING UNITS THERE - ONE FOR HER AND THREE SHORT-TERM RENTALS.

Community – the following topics were discussed:

- COMMUNITY ROOM AUDIO/VISUAL UPGRADE PROCURE COSTS AND DETAILS FOR UPGRADING AUDIO AND VIDEO QUALITY FOR MEETINGS IN THE NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY ROOM
- KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL (KAB) GRANTS GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE TREE PLANTING IN NORTHFIELD
- DOWNTOWN DESIGNATION FOR THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD TAKE THE NEXT STEP FROM BEING A DESIGNATED VILLAGE TO A DESIGNATED DOWNTOWN FOR MORE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTHFIELD
- COMMUNITY CENTER - OUR COMMON FUTURE TASK FORCE JOINED CHARLIE MORSE AT SENIOR CENTER MEETING ABOUT POSSIBLE EXPANSION TO INCLUDE COMMUNITY CENTER.
- COMMUNITY GARDEN MAKE NORTHFIELD'S FEMA BUYOUT PROPERTIES INTO COMMUNITY GARDEN SPACE THAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER TO GROW FOOD
- MUNICIPAL LIBRARY To provide resources to address repair and mitigation needs in small, rural public libraries that also serve as community meeting spaces and public facilities
- OUTDOOR STORAGE RESOLUTION PLAN CREATE A CODIFIED SOLUTION TO THE SMALL PERCENTAGE OF HOMEOWNERS WHOSE MAINTAINENCE OF THEIR LAWNS IS LOWERING THE PROPERTY VALUES OF THEIR NEIGHBORS
- BUILDING COMMUNITIES GRANTS PROGRAM "Grants include: •
 - \$300,000.00 – Recreational Facilities Grant Program
 - \$300,000,00 – Regional Economic Development Grant Program
 - \$150,000.00 – Human Services Facilities Grant Program
 - \$150,000.00 – Educational Facilities Grant Program
- NORWICH/NORTHFIELD COMMUNICATIONS WORKING WITH KAHWA DOUOGUIH ON A TECHNOLOICAL SOLUTION TO BETTER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NORWICH AND NORTHFIELD REGARDING ASSETS, EVENTS, CHANCES TO PARTNERSHIP.

Energy / Infrastructure – the following topics were discussed:

- DOE Thermal Energy Storage to Support Renewable Energy Deployment PARTNERSHIP WITH NORWICH UNIVERSITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO TEST THERMAL ENERGY STORAGE (TES) AS A WAY TO SUPPORT BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION
- MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESILIENCE PROGRAM - MERP Free building energy assessments - \$4,000 for GRANT WRITING SUPPORT - Up to

\$500,000 grants for weatherization, thermal efficiency, and supplementing or replacing fossil fuel heating systems.

Housing – the following topics were discussed:

- GA EMERGENCY HOUSING PURSUE SUPPORT OPTIONS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE LEVEL OF HOMELESSNESS IN NORTHFIELD AND OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING IT.
- HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - NORTHFIELD PROJECT BUILD OUR FIRST HABITAT HOUSING PROJECT IN NORTHFIELD
- CETRANGOLO - 110 NORTH MAIN - APARTMENT COMPLEX WORKING WITH NORTHFIELD DEVELOPMENT CO. ON 25 UNIT APARTMENT COMPLEX
- FORAN FAMILY LAND WORK WITH OWNERS OF 181 ACRE PARCEL OFF DOYON ROAD TO DEVELOP MULTIPLE HOUSING OPTIONS AND COMMUNITY AMENITIES
- MAYO HEALTH - SENIOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING EVALUATING EFFICACY OF DEVELOPING AN INDEPENDENT LIVING COMMUNITY ADJACENT TO MAYO TO PROVIDE SENIORS FOR OPTIONS TO SELL THEIR HOMES, BUT STAY IN THE COMMUNITY.
- NORTHFIELD HOUSING TASK FORCE ESTABLISH A WORKING TASK FORCE FOCUSED ON HOUSING IN NORTHFIELD
- VHIP GRANTS FOR ADU'S AND RENTAL IMPROVEMENTS RECRUIT HOMEOWNERS TO CREATE NEW HOUSING USING ADU GRANTS THROUGH VERMONT HOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN
- FRIEGHT YARD WAY WORK WITH DEVELOPERS AND LANDOWNERS TO DEVELOP THIS NEW PART OF NORTHFIELD'S DESIGNATED VILLAGE DISTRICT.

Municipal – the following topics were discussed:

- VT Bond Bank <--> Northfield: Capital planning and infrastructure climate risk Northfield's capital planning, risk management and a possible collaboration with VT Bond Bank
- TURKEY HILL RADIO TOWER CLEAN UP SITE - CONSIDER REVENUE OPTIONS AND COSTS SAVING BY CONSOLIDATING ON THE PARCEL

Recreation – the following topics were discussed:

- NORWICH CONNECTOR PATHWAY COMPLETE ADA ACCESSIBLE CONNECTOR PATH BETWEEN FREIGHT YARD WAY AND NORWICH RUGBY FIELDS

- RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM - VOREC Continued
Improvements to Lybrand Trail
- RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM - PAINE MTN SCHOOL SYSTEM
Improvements to trails on school property

Transportation – the following topics were discussed:

- PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY - WALL STREET - WATER STREET NEW WALKWAY, BIKE LANE FROM COMMON TO DOG RIVER PARK
- TRANSPORTATION ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT "Grant funding of up to \$100,000 to pay for consultants to create a TOD Master Plan and draft municipal
- bylaws/development regulations to implement the TOD Master Plan."
- NORTHFIELD FALLS CROSSWALK Transportation grant for crosswalk with sidewalks and curbing on both sides of Route 12 in Northfield Falls and two flashing beacons. Assisting town manager on application.
- HSIP - UNION BROOK STRIPING "Highway Safety Improvement Program, local grants for safety infrastructure, Deadline June 16. Reimbursement - 0% local match. Grants between \$5,000-\$35,000. Applying for funds to complete road striping on Union Brook.
- "
- TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Monthly meeting to discuss transportation issues and planning for Central Vermont. Ongoing

b. Other Matters – no other matters were discussed.

V. ADJOURNMENT. The subcommittee adjourned at approximately 3:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Davis

Thomas G. Davis

Economic Development Director