**Minutes SeVEDS Board  
October 20 – 2-4 pm  
Brattleboro Municipal Center**

Present: Jeff Lewis, Stephan Morse, Lisa Sullivan, Jenna Pugiliese, Julia Sorenson, Gregg Noble, Colby Dix, Susan McMahon, Bob Stevens

Absent: Barb Sondag, Tim Cullenen, Bill Colvin. Patrick Moreland, Drew Richards

Greg made a motion to approve the bylaws as recommended by the executive committee.  Stephan seconded VOTE: Unanimous

Discussion on the VE report – report needs to be turned into a pr product once it is completed.  Need to follow up with VE on part 6 and 7

Jeff led a discussion with the board about what they had learned and what their takeaways were from the VE process.  Bullet points below.

* Colby-Waxing and waning of ‘community’; task is reinforcing social infrastructure; strengthening the existing networks;
* Susan-Building from the outside in; finding the people who have energy-i.e. Transition Putney, Friends of Algiers, Readsboro,
* Bob-Earning a living; building a successful business environment; ‘What is it that makes a community more or less prosperous?’
* Susan-small
* Jenna-Lack of change in small towns; unimaginative leadership; we have to provide a benefit to businesses.
* Gregg-are we enabling businesses?;
* Bob-did we lose the idea of connecting summer and winter employment opportunities;
* Lisa-building summer opportunities for kids and families, using winder employees.
* Bob-aren’t we making existing businesses more successful
* Susan-Community development
* Jenna-So Vermont is a great place to live if you don’t have to work here
* Colby-Map community groups
* Bob-Global business opportunity; building networks among existing entities
* Gregg-broadband connectivity
* Lisa-
* Julia-existing businesses; large versus employers; identify vulnerable companies; identify closed businesses
* Colby-how do we make this an attractive place to do business; mockups of diner locations
* Bob-Global business opportunity; building networks among existing entities
* Gregg-broadband connectivity
* Lisa-
* Julia-existing businesses; large versus employers; identify vulnerable companies; identify closed businesses
* Colby-how do we make this an attractive place to do business; mockups of diner locations
* Julia/Gregg-open new business areas;
* Stephan-strengthen businesses; identify a focus area/cluster and build strategies to attract/create; companies that are consistent with our community values
* Bob-businesses that can help recruit new businesses; create a business creation system
* Lisa-linkages with second home owners; key resource
* Lisa-connect with 2nd home owners because of the need now and the openings on Main Street
* Colby-build pro-formas for needed businesses;
* Stephan-expand that strategy to larger employers and more capital intensive businesses (traded businesses)
* Bob-focus attention and effort on companies that pay wages the will raise the average wage
* Susan-what clusters fit our values and environment
* Julia-environmental problems will destroy economic development; crime or an unsafe environment will hurt economic development; she notes that this is a threat locally; lower socio-economic level impacts; impacts of state policy; don’t we need to have knowledge about crime and safety in our communities
* Lisa-how do we measure quality of life; segmented QoL;
* Jenna-we have to create a complete culture for the demographic we need to attract; how do you do that in a rural environment
* Lisa-Young Professionals Group; Can this be regional?;
* Stephan-tell this story of QoL to the arts organizations;
* Jenna-Transportation is a key; how do you get from here to there (nights and weekends); Okemo bus example;
* Colby-Dover changed the way it handled traffic offenses; Wilmington is tougher and influences the whole Valley attitude
* Bob-ambassadors to visitors and business people;
* Gregg-how do we change the perception of things? NH economic development—reporting cocaine busts in the paper; how do we influence; advertises that we have a problem; talk with Sheriff and police and the newspapers
* Lisa-QoL broadband to the residence; everyone has to have access
* Stephan-ambitious plan; issue will be with us; this is still an issue