**DRAFT SEVEDS Board Minutes**

**April 18th, 2019 3:00 – 5:00 pm at BDCC**

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Regrets: Gary Fox, Stephen Dotson

Present: Meg Streeter, Avery Schwenk, Konstantin von Krusenstiern, Mary Ann Kristiansen, Luke Stafford, Susan Westa, Ashley Havreluk, Randy Capitani, Drew Richards, (Staff Jen Stromsten)

***Quorum Achieved***

SeVEDS Welcome & Gathering – Meg

Report out of Executive Committee (Meg & Avery):

* Concerns about the 1% Tax letter that went out from BDCC prior to funding request at Brattleboro town meeting, since it caused controversy and SeVEDS board / leadership were not made aware.
* Board openings. KvK will create a board matrix so we can think about representation of towns, but also sectors for instance we lack financial sector right now. This will help focus recruitment.
* **Staff will share to board a spreadsheet of current members by town.**

Business

* **Minutes of March 21: KvK motion,, accepted unanimously.**
* **2019 Southern VT CEDS Vital Projects and Projects List** as recommended from CEDS Project Committee**: Avery Motion, Randy second, approved unanimously.** (Sarah Lang provided overview 73 projects mostly new, 4/8 meeting, 3 reviewer groups by major category so each reviewer would have ~25 projects to rank Meg gave update on OSEC and value of being a project.)Will have brief descriptions of vital projects for Summit announcement.
* **Staff need to update form - take the #s and do bullets, organize by alpha.**

SeVEDS & RED Updates

* 501C3 Status achieved!
* Putnam Project closing forecast for early May. Randy asks about ownership: private group made of Bennington College, SW VT Healthcare and Bank of Bennington and some private like Bennington Redevelopment Group plus individuals so 60 unique investors (including one couple at $400k and some little LLCs)
* RED Group - April 30th meeting topic will be taking a look at what’s next and role vis a vis CEDS. Also questions of structure and affiliation. Last 2 meetings had 18-20 people so excitement especially around implementation and need for capacity.
* YP & Summit Updates
* Final tally on Town Meetings ($84k) and overview of Brattleboro TM, and what we might do to provide town level data on economics.

Other Updates from Board Members

* Retreat Expansion
* Hannah Grimes Radically Rural – Kauffman Fdn President will be keynote
* Hermit Thrush – beer market still growing fastest per capita in VT
* Luke was at VT Tourism Summit – and theme was how tourism can help solve wf problem (converting .1 % of visitors to wf we could solve labor gap)
* WRC – Brownfield work, Curtis Reed spoke with Community Development Cmte.
* Mount Snow techno event
* Randy – Twin Valley school leadership turnover will affect P3 programs
* Best Places to Work award and ceremony, no other Southern VT, but Drew endorses it and feels it has real value in recruiting and survey has helped us reframe benefits over time. Making hiring a focus within the organization has helped on workforce front, so fully staffed.

Discussion of Strategic Priorities

* How does the board feel about these three? (act regionally, increase size and quality of workforce, expand regional development capacity)
  + got rid of entrepreneurial environment, wage parity, and age cohort
* How do we define regionally, or do we? Every time we use it, it means something different.
* How do we operate within our defined service area (SE VT)
* Acting Regionally in the context of the CEDS is referencing Bennington County, primarily.
* Can we be clearer as to what #1, especially a & c mean. Can we say this differently? As SeVEDS we want to say exactly what we need to be able to Act Regionally –
* Adam - We have developed capacity to work within the zone, but a goal could be to develop capacity to work outside of the Zone.
* Meg – we are responsible for our part so aren’t these priorities supposed to be the ones that focus on us more? So the Zone partnership is part of that.
* Bill – the sentiment is the same on Bennington Side. Certain CEDS items we will try to implement jointly, and others that will be done singly. Wrestling with same things.
* **Staff will bring back some versions for the next meeting.**

Upcoming Date

* **Mary 16 SeVEDS Board Meeting**