

SEVEDS Board Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2017, 3:00 – 5:00 pm at BDCC

Attendees: Adam Grinold, Bob Stevens, Bill Colvin, Kristin Mehalick, Laura Sibia (via phone), Konstantin von Krusenstiern, Jen Stromsten, Bobbi Kilburn, Sarah Lang, Mary Ann Kristiansen, Josh Druke, Bethaney LaClair (via phone), Meg Streeter, Stephen Dotson and Anne Andreosatos.

Welcome & Gathering – Bob Stevens

Stephen Dotson noted the Ecovation Sister City program. Windham / Greenfield potentially pairing up in a relationship with an international community. Working on building connections with the kinds of local orgs that will want to participate.

Stephen also requested that SEVEDS soon examine the issue of marijuana legalization as an issue that needs a strategic approach to be a positive development in our region? We need a strategy for our region, and its SEVEDS role to try to develop that

Mary Ann Kristiansen noted the Hannah Grimes Idea Jam May 19 led by RT Brown – ideas for Main Streets and downtowns. The age of Amazon in rural regions, networking after. Part of the ‘Five at the Hives’ 5-7 pm monthly.

Action Items

- Review and Approve March 16, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes
 - Motion: Mary Ann Kristiansen
 - Second: Stephen Dotson
 - Approved by all
- Accept resignation of Patrick Moreland for the SeVEDS Board of Directors
 - Motion: Anne Andreosatos
 - Second: Meg Streeter
 - Approved by all

Updates

- SeVEDS Quarterly Financials – Bobbi Kilburn
 - Bobbi Kilburn gave an overview of the SeVEDS financials
- SeVEDS 990 Form – Bobbi Kilburn
 - Action item: Motion to have Bob Stevens sign SeVEDS 990 Form
 - Motion: Meg Streeter
 - Second: Konstantin von Krusenstiern,
 - Approved by all – Stephen Dotson Dotson abstained
- Fundraising Committee – Jen Stromsten
 - Jen Stromsten provided an update on the fundraising committee that is comprised of Drew Richards, Meg Streeter and Konstantin von Krusenstiern. They working on messaging for fundraising.

Substantive Discussions

- Joint CEDS Proposal By Staff – Laura Sibilialia
 - Bill Colvin on Joint Ceds ‘traction has exceeded my expectations’. Biz, public, large and some small communities, balance of public private but majority private sector.
 - A Vote yes is a commitment in one or more of three ways – time, vocal advocate for regional approach / SoVT, financial support or help getting funds. Our commitment is to raise an equal level of funds. 24 people voted in favor, got great press. It was a very emotional day – standing ovation at end of the vote. We were clearly able to point to tangible results – funding, investment, jobs created and retained. Planning with a purpose and specific implementation steps. We’ll be looking for strategic opportunities to act along the way!
 - To date the SeVEDS CEDS is in the name of BDCC. EDA wants Matthew to reapply and bring BCIC into that as co-recipient, and then it becomes a joint thing.
 - Action Item: Motion for approval of joint CEDS proposal with Bennington County
 - Motion: Meg Streeter
 - Second: Stephen Dotson
 - Approved by all
 - FYI: May 2nd - Joint Press Release on SoVermont CEDS Development to include notice of summit
- Review SeVEDS FY 2018 Annual Implementation Strategy – Laura Sibilialia
 - The executive committee and the board renamed the plan to the Annual Strategic Priorities
 - The BDCC/SeVEDS annual report will be a look back at all the work that has been done and the SeVEDS Annual Strategic Priorities will be a look forward at what’s to come
 - A draft of the Annual Strategic Priorities will be prepared by the staff and presented to the board

Other Business / Announcements

- Next SeVEDS Board Meeting, Thursday, May 18th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm at BDCC
- **Southern Vermont Economic Summit, Wednesday, May 24th at Stratton Mountain**

CEDS and FY '17 Board Priority Area Updates

- **Town Meeting Day:**
 - SeVEDS municipal funding for FY 2017-2018 is \$70,881.00. Contributing towns include Brattleboro, Rockingham, Guilford, Newfane, Putney, Marlboro, Dover and Wilmington.
 - Towns who votes "no" to funding request: Vernon and Westminster
 - Brattleboro's request was approved at \$2 per person and all other towns approved at \$3 per person
- **Entrepreneurial Programs:**
 - INSTIG8 - Entrepreneurship and Innovation
 - Ongoing outreach
 - Increased level of small business inquiries from multiple sources
 - Workshop developing in the areas of human resources, finance, insurance, and succession planning
 - Incubation programming / services in development
 - Startup-lab development in partnership with well-established organization currently in progress
 - Founder Focus - great success! Now doing one per week - recommendations welcome!
 - Seek mentors - recommendations welcome!
- **Workforce Programs:**
 - Internship Program

Working to expand the number of businesses and interns' participating in the Internship Program. Increasing business outreach and presence at regional colleges. Currently working with over 12 interns to place in summer internships.
 - Sophomore Summit/Fast Tracks to Success:

Sophomore Summit planning continues. The BDCC/SeVEDS was instrumental in securing a large number of private sector speakers to present for the event on April 26th. This event will be part of the Fast Tracks to Success Program.

A group of Career Center faculty visited Cersosimo, Commonwealth Dairy, and GS Precision, and 30 8th Graders from Twin Valley visited Montpelier on a "Careers in Government Day" for the Fast Tracks Program.
 - Talent Pipeline Management

There will be a Construction TPM meeting in Montpelier on Friday, April 7th, with the Healthcare meeting to be convened at a later date. The BDCC and local partners, including

DOL, Brattleboro Area Techies, Food Connects, and the Career Center continue to show interest, and are making progress towards convening the first Windham County TPM survey.

- Young Professionals

The April event will be a mixer in Wilmington on Thursday, April 20th, location TDB. The May event will be the Gardening with Charlie Nardozi event, likely in Bellows Falls, and June will be Dining in the Dark, in partnership with the Vermont Federation for the Blind, at Echo Restaurant in Brattleboro. July will be a Barn Dance in Dummerston at the Leonard Farm, and August will be "Weed-Dating" with Food Connects, where the traditional speed-dating model of meeting new people is facilitated while participants harvest garlic.