



**NVDA**  
*Northeastern Vermont  
Development Association*

~ MINUTES ~  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**  
**The Eastside Restaurant**  
**December 14, 2023 6:00 PM**

**THOSE ATTENDING:**

**Directors:** Stephen Amos, Keith Ballek, Eileen Boland, Noah Bond, James, Brown, Paul Brouha, Hope Colburn, Joel Cope, William Davies, Willam Davis, Scott Dunn, Martha Feltus, Larry Labor, Ken Linsley, Mike Marcotte, Mike Metcalf, Woodman Page, Fred Saar, Katherine Sims, Brian Smith, Grant Spates, Robert Starr, Mark Whitworth

**Guests:** Carol Brown, Carol Brouha, Kevin Chu

**NVDA Staff:** Tina Gonyaw, Lorna Higgs, David Snedeker

---

The meeting was called to order by President Fred Saar at 6:06 PM

**Updates to Agenda**

None

**Minutes**

A motion by Paul Brouha, seconded by Stephen Amos, to accept the minutes of the June 22, 2023 meeting as presented carried unanimously.

**FY2023 Audit Reports**

Draft Audit was not available - item passed over.

---

PO Box 630 36 Eastern Avenue, Suite 1 St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819-0630 802 748-5181 Fax: 802 748-1223

The regional planning and development commission serving The Northeast Kingdom: Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties  
NVDA is an Equal Opportunity lender, provider and employer

## **Guest Speaker**

Kevin Chu, Executive Director, Vermont Futures Project  
Presentation attached below.

## **Director's Updates**

### 2023 Recap

#### **Regional Planning updates:**

- NVDA Regional Plan updated and readopted last Summer. A full rewrite of the Regional Plan is in process with a draft expected mid-2024.
- Staff assisted the Towns of Greensboro and Hardwick with updates to their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans following the July flooding event. Staff are now working with the Town of Barton (and Barton & Orleans Villages) to update their LHMP.
- Staff have been participating in the municipal energy audits for the most energy-burdened towns in our region through the MERP program. We will be assisting towns with implementation grant applications once their audit reports are available.
- Staff have been scheduling and meeting with Town Selectboards and Planning Commissions of Round 2 communities to identify local needs as part of the AoA MTAP program. There is also ongoing follow-up with some of the Round 1 communities.

#### **Regional Development updates:**

- Staff are working on implementing the Small Business Technical Assistance effort with all RDCs.
- MOU signed with National Grid for the Twin States Clean Energy Link project in September.
- Two lots sold in the St. Johnsbury Industrial Park for an expanding business relocating from Danville in late Summer.
- 7-8 acres of land is also under option in the Lyndon Industrial Park for a bio-energy developer that will benefit the local electric utility, if permitted and constructed.
- NVDA received an EDA Build-to-Scale grant that will focus on developing technology-based businesses in the region. This will include advanced manufacturing, wood technologies, and health care sector businesses. The \$1.4M initiative (with ½ of the total coming through the VT Legislature) bring two new positions to NVDA.
- NVDA's Brownfields program remains very active with environmental assessment activities being conducted to facilitate redevelopments and/or property transfers. NVDA may be asked to serve as an interim owner for a key site in St. Johnsbury that will ultimately be a new housing development in the Town's Neighborhood Development Area.

## **Any other Business**

None

There being no further business, a motion by James Brown; seconded by Stephen Amos to adjourn the meeting carried unanimously.

PO Box 630 36 Eastern Avenue, Suite 1 St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819-0630 802 748-5181 Fax: 802 748-1223

---

The regional planning and development commission serving The Northeast Kingdom: Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties  
NVDA is an Equal Opportunity lender, provider and employer

President Fred Saar adjourned the meeting at 7:23 PM

PO Box 630 36 Eastern Avenue, Suite 1 St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819-0630 802 748-5181 Fax: 802 748-1223

---

The regional planning and development commission serving The Northeast Kingdom: Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties  
NVDA is an Equal Opportunity lender, provider and employer