



NVDA
*Northeastern Vermont
Development Association*

~ MINUTES ~
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
For the Love of Food Venue | Barton, VT
March 21, 2024 6:00 PM

THOSE ATTENDING:

Directors: Stephen Amos, Keith Ballek, Eileen Boland, Farley Brown, James Brown, Paul Brouha, William Davis, Martha Feltus, Mike Gonyaw, Mike Metcalf, Alan Robertson, Fred Saar, Brent Smith, Grant Spates, Mark Whitworth

Guests: Mark Simakaski

NVDA Staff: Tina Gonyaw, Jesse Noone, David Snedeker

The meeting was called to order by President Fred Saar at 6:25 PM

Updates to Agenda

None

Minutes

A motion by Brent Smith, seconded by Paul Brouha, to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2023 meeting as presented carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Financials

A motion to approve the January Financial Statements subject to audit was made Mike Metcalf and seconded by Grant Spates. The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Approval FY2023 Audit

A motion by Paul Brouha, seconded by Martha Feltus, to approve the FY2023 Audit Reports carried unanimously on a voice vote following discussion. There were questions about the length of engagement with our auditors (3-year agreements), and the Board was reminded that this was the final year of the agreement.

Amend Corporate Resolution

Fred Saar explained the need to amend the Corporate Resolution to authorize the Director to apply for and receive state and federal grants that further the mission of the organization as this was not explicitly stated in the 2016 Resolution.

A motion to amend the Corporate Resolution to allow the Executive Director to apply for grants was made Paul Brouha and seconded by Mike Metcalf. The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Guest Speaker – Mark Simakaski – Ellipsis, Inc.

David introduced Mark Simakaski, a beverage manufacturer that NVDA is working to assist financially through grants and loans. In 2022, NVDA sold a lot in the St. Johnsbury Industrial Park to Ellipsis, LLC, a beverage manufacturing business currently located in Groton, VT. Due to business growth, they would like to build a new 12,000+ sf bottling plant in the park that would create up to ten new jobs in the region. Mark spoke on the products they are currently bottling and the companies they work with in the state. He answered questions on the growth of the company. The Board expressed positive support for their efforts. NVDA will move forward to pursue VEDA financing and a state grant to support the project.

Approval of Barnet, Brownington, Lunenburg and Lowell Plan

David Snedeker presented to the Board the recommendation of the NVDA Town Plan Approval committee for the Barnet, Brownington, Lunenburg and Lowell Town Plans.

A motion by Paul Brouha, seconded by Al Robertson, to grant regional approval of the Newport City Plan carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

A motion was made by Mike Metcalf, seconded by Al Roberston, to open a Public Hearing to confirm the municipal planning efforts of the Towns of Barnet, Brownington, Canaan, Granby, Lunenburg and Lowell.

David Snedeker explained that regional confirmation now only needs to occur twice within an eight-year period, whereas NVDA used to confirm eligible municipalities annually.

A motion by Paul Brouha, seconded by James Brown, to confirm the municipal planning efforts of Barnet, Brownington, Canaan, Granby, Lunenburg and Lowell carried unanimously.

Motion to close the public hearing by James Brown, seconded by Grant Spates, approved unanimously.

Legislator Updates

None

Director's Updates

David gave a brief update on the Regional Plan. The Energy, Community Facilities, and Land Use sections will be in draft form for public comment near the end of April. Also, the Board was notified that the Twin States Clean Energy Project was pulled from consideration by National Grid and reasons were enumerated. NVDA and National Grid had signed an MOU for the project that would have provided local community and regional benefits. Lastly, it was noted that the Yellow Barn Business Accelerator Project construction is nearly 50% complete.

Any other Business

None

There being no further business, a motion by Grant Spates; seconded by Paul Brouha to adjourn the meeting carried unanimously.

President Fred Saar adjourned the meeting at 7:06 PM

Afterward, the Board was introduced to Casey Moulton, owner of the For Love of Food business that provided the excellent meal for the group.