



NVDA
*Northeastern Vermont
Development Association*

~ MINUTES ~
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Zoom Meeting
March 23, 2023 6:00 PM

THOSE ATTENDING:

Directors: Grant Spates, Mike Metcalf, Beth Barnes, Lori Augustyniak, Fred Saar, Laura Dolgin, James Brown, Paul Brouha, Gina Vigneault, Stephen Amos, Rudy Chase, Martha Feltus, Mark Whitworth, Farley Brown

Guests: Eileen Boland

NVDA Staff: Tina Gonyaw, David Snedeker

The meeting was called to order by President Laura Dolgin at 6:01 PM

Updates to Agenda

None

Minutes

A motion by Paul Brouha, seconded by Gina Vigneault, to accept the minutes of the December 15, 2022 meeting as presented carried unanimously.

Financials

A motion to approve the January and February Financial Statements subject to audit was made Gina Vigneault and seconded by Fred Saar. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Legislator Updates

Late session on the floor. Tabled for a future meeting.

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The regional planning and development commission serving The Northeast Kingdom: Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties
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Director's Updates

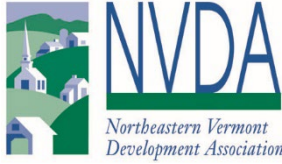
Attached. David answered questions on his updates

Any other Business

None

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

President Laura Dolgin adjourned the meeting at 6:33 PM



March 23, 2023

To: NVDA Board of Directors

From: David Snedeker, Executive Director

Re: NVDA Board of Directors meeting of March 23, 2023

Thank you once again for participating in tonight's virtual meeting. Given everything with the COVID/flu season, winter weather, and the legislature being in session, it made sense to hold this meeting remotely. Hopefully we will be meeting in person as a board in June. Staff and tenants at our downtown office building all continue working in a hybrid manner with some days in the office and other days working remotely.

NVDA Brownfields Coalition Partnership – EPA Assessment Activities update

NVDA has now committed all of our 2020 EPA Coalition Brownfield Assessment Grant in year 2 of the 3-year grant. In November, working with our consultant Stantec, we were able to successfully submit two new funding applications to EDA. One for \$1M in additional assessment funds and another for \$1M in brownfield revolving loan funds. Award decisions are expected later this Spring.

Industrial Park Lot Sale/Inquiry

- NVDA is still considering offers on 2 lots in the St. Johnsbury – Lyndon Industrial Park.
- NVDA closed on the sale of our St. Johnsbury office building on March 3rd. We will remain in the building as a tenant with a 3-year lease agreement.

Other major projects:

NVDA staff updates: NVDA will soon be looking to fill another regional planner position this Spring.

NVDA's Alison Low continues to lead the Hardwick Yellow Barn Business Accelerator development project. The project is moving toward closing on a New Market Tax Credit award which is a critical funding piece. We are also getting ready for the Town of Hardwick to sign construction contracts for groundbreaking this Summer.

NVDA, in partnership with the Northeast Kingdom Development Corporation (NEKDC), is now working with a Construction Management firm for the remediation and rehabilitation of the former Bogner property in Newport. The development team is meeting twice weekly for project updates. Once renovations are complete, we plan to lease the building to Track, Inc., an expanding business currently located in Newport Center. We are hopeful that the business will be in operation in the building later this Summer or Fall.

Allie Webster continues to assist NVDA communities with Energy Planning and Implementation initiatives. She and Alison Low continue to put out our energy-focused newsletter that goes out to all of our municipalities and local energy committees. Allie will be NVDA's lead person on the new Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP), although many of the staff will be helping towns with applications. This program through VT BGS will assist communities with energy audits and energy efficiency initiatives over the next 3 years. Up to \$500,000 is available for each municipality. There are non-competitive \$4,000 planning grants available to all towns at present.

Multiple NVDA staff members continue working directly with communities along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail to plan and implement developments related to the trail's expected final completion in early 2023. NVDA is also staffing the regional trail council that was created to provide support to LVRT communities and volunteer groups going forward. NVDA worked with SE Group to complete an economic impact analysis of known and expected trail usage that will help the host communities apply for funding opportunities moving forward.

NVDA has selected SE Group to assist us with an update of our 2018 *Regional Plan for the Northeast Kingdom*. The current plan is to re-adopt the current plan with minor updates, while working concurrently on a new plan.

NVDA staff will be doing a significant amount of municipal outreach to our communities in the coming months. We will be reaching out to towns on all of the following: Municipal Energy Resilience Planning (MERP), ARPA assistance as needed, Municipal unmet needs survey (in concert with the Agency of Administration), and a Health Equity Toolkit being utilized statewide. Through the work of the Climate Council, we will later be assisting communities with a Municipal Vulnerability Index tool for their local planning efforts.

The above list is by no means comprehensive as staff our also working in the areas of emergency management, water quality planning, mapping, and many other projects related to community and economic development in the Northeast Kingdom. Please contact me at dsnedeker@nvda.net if you have any questions. The support of the NVDA Board and all our legislators is greatly appreciated!

Thank you,

Dave Snedeker

Executive Director