

HYDE PARK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 5, 2013

*All minutes are draft until approved by the EDB;
Please check future minutes for the approval of these minutes.*

Members Present: Greg Paus, Chair (GP); Charlie Aronovici (CA)
Members Absent: David Gagnier (DG)
Staff: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator (RR); Carol Robertson (CR)
Guests: None

GP opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

1. **Welcome and Public Comment** – No members of the public were present.

2. **Organization Meeting**

This is the first meeting of the board since the voters and legislative bodies acted to approve and create the EDB early in 2013. The board agreed to meet monthly for now, and also as needed in between meetings, should an item come up needing attention. Meetings will be at 5:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the municipal offices Community Meeting Room. RR will be clerk for the EDB to post agendas and publish minutes.

3. **Review of 2013 Tax Stabilization Policy**

The board reviewed the policy and article which allowed tax stabilization contracts of up to 10 years for a broad range of activities. The board agreed to place a priority on village redevelopment projects for tax stabilization, specifically properties along Main Street, rather than reaching out to the entire town at once. RR pointed out that the risk of having many projects to consider is limited by the policy which requires an investment of at least 25% of the assessed property value in order to be considered by the EDB.

4. **Other Tasks**

In addition to processing tax stabilization requests, the board discussed the general opportunity, as an economic development board, to conduct public outreach with a few specific property owners and share information concerning redevelopment, energy efficiency grants, historic preservation grants and other programs to improve properties. GP noted that all property owners may have access to grants and programs that they are not aware of. CA suggested creating a brochure to summarize the opportunities for property owners, including tax stabilization. Discussion of a proposed geothermal system resulted in a need for more information on how the proposed courthouse project's geothermal system could be recaptured in 8 years. CR suggested a community geothermal system could reduce heating costs for all landowners, thereby allowing landowners to invest in property improvements instead of paying their heating oil bill. The board agreed that listening to landowners and business owners needs was important and the town and village may be able to facilitate projects simply by keeping in touch with landowners from time to time.

5. **Next Steps and Assignments**

Carol will continue to touch base with the property owners of Fred's Auto Repair and PH Edwards. Ron will contact Tricia Follert, Morrisville Community Development Coordinator, about attending the Dec 3 EDB meeting. Greg and Charlie will contact Bonnie at the Lamoille County Planning Commission in regard to economic development staff support for the EDB.

6. **Approve Minutes** – none yet.

7. **Adjourn** - The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Rodjenski