

HYDE PARK
JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 2019
344 Route 15 West

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

Members Present: Greg Paus (Planning Commission Chair), Charlie Aronovici (Village Trustee) and Roger Audet (Selectboard)
Members Absent: None
Staff: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator
Guests: John Decker, Fork & Gavel; Devin Dannat, Jon Williams and Mary Goderwis from Sutherland-Welles and Susan Bartlett, Selectboard.

Charlie opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

1. **Welcome & Public Comment** – None.
2. **Tax Stabilization Application Request from 246 Main St** – Charlie reviewed the TSA process and asked John Decker, Fork & Gavel Café, for information regarding his investments in the property since his purchase in December 2018 and what his future investments might be that would increase the value of the property. John summarized the property as having two residential units on the second floor and the restaurant use on the first floor. After purchasing the property, there were substantial code investments made and he is planning on renovating the easterly side of the first floor to a small food market area, noting new windows are needed throughout. John agreed to review the application materials and apply soon. The Board suggested reaching out regional agencies and the state as there are programs to help businesses that are not provided through the town.
3. **Revolving Loan Fund** – Devin reported that as the Sutherland Welles business looks at new opportunities, such as kiln-dried wood slabs, they see some possibility for public-private partnership to grow the business. Susan offered that the town could develop one or more new programs in the near future so hearing about business needs is very timely. The Town can access funds from the State and make loans or provide grants to local businesses, and Susan mentioned the good work being done in Hardwick. Greg Paus stated that regional planning has funding opportunities through Northern Border Regional Commission and other agencies, such as the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation. Seth Jensen from LCPC provided some information on establishing revolving loan funds to start the local discussion.
4. **Economic Development Reserve Fund** – Ron noted that the town's reserve fund has about \$18,000 in it that could be used to support business growth, but a policy and application process would be good to develop to guide how funds are dispersed, in particular through grants or loans or a combination. Devin stated he would stay in touch to see how the town develops the local program but will reach out to the state and regional agencies as well. John Decker agreed it would be good to make those same contacts as he gets ready to renovate his building, including contacting Efficiency Vermont.
5. **Next meeting** – The Board agreed to meet when a complete application is submitted for review by Fork & Gavel.
6. **Adjourn** – Having no further business, the Board adjourned at 5:45 pm.