

**Town of Northfield, Municipal Building  
Economic Development Committee Minutes  
September 24, 2014**

**Chair Donahue called the meeting to order at 6:00pm**

- I. Roll Call:** Selectboard member Dave Maxwell, Selectboard member Dennis Donahue, Selectboard Member John Quinn, Town Manager Jeffery Schulz, Sam Anderson Central VT EDC, and Leslie Striebe, Go-Northfield.
- II. Public Participation:** None
- III. Action Items:** John Quinn recommended tabling the minutes due to a lack of a quorum.
- IV. Discussion: V-DAT Report Update:**

The Committee recommended that someone establish contact with Steve Brooks of TDS regarding their future plans for Northfield. Jeff Schulz stated that he had meet with Steve Brooks several weeks ago and that Steve indicated that TDS has no current plans to leave Northfield or reduce the work force. Steve added that most of TDS's employees in Northfield have worked for the company for many years and wish to remain in Northfield. Also, he noted that these employees also serve an important role in the overall company.

The Committee discussed the need to work establish a business incubator space in Northfield. Sam Anderson stated that incubator spaces work best in conjunction with universities, and that the Committee should get an space needs inventory from Norwich. Dave Maxwell indicated that he would reach out to Norwich.

Leslie Striebe of "Go Northfield" stated that their group brought Front Porch Forum to Northfield and are now working on the "Welcome Northfield Initiative." She wants to establish ways to get the word out that Northfield is a great place to live.

Leslie stated that her group is also working on new entrance gateway signs for the Town, and has developed a design of the sign which includes a new covered bridge. She has an estimate of \$6,000 for the two signs and is for looking recommendation on funding options and next steps.

Dave mentioned that Norwich has a group as part of the Community Arts program that may be willing to help with the design. The Committee

suggested that logo design in the V-DAT Report be changed. The group stated that there needs to be agreement on logo.

**V. Other Topics and Reports:**

The Committee discussed the need to work on several other projects or ideas, including: the development of a list of Northfield services and a spreadsheet of businesses; adding a link on the web-site to commercial properties; sending a letter to commercial property owners asking for a fact sheet; on-going business retention efforts consisting of quarterly meetings; and outreach to the Topps Market about possible store expansion.

**VI. Public Participation:** None

**VII. Adjournment:** Dave Maxwell moved to adjournment at 6:00pm. John. Quinn seconded. Meeting adjourned 6:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Schulz, Acting Clerk