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# Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

## Meeting Minutes

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### Economic Development Committee (EDC)

Date of Meeting: November 12, 2024 in person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

Members Present: Rick Bennett (chair), John Verocchi, and via Zoom, Andrea Bacchi. Also present was town administrator Paula Iken.

1. Call to order

The meeting came to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Minutes

There were no comments on the minutes of the October meeting.

3. Conflict of interest

No one reported a conflict of interest with anything on the agenda.

4. Thrive project

Ms. Bacchi said she had to change the tool she's using for the survey to Google forms. She will share access information with Mr. Verocchi. She said Mr. Verocchi reviewed the form and made some suggestions, which she incorporated. She hopes it will be published in the next week and that survey results can be posted on the Town website by January 1.

5. Business district BCRC project update

Mr. Bennett said he'd heard from the BCRC representative. There has been an understandable delay in completing the report but it is in process. Mr. Bennett suggested that BCRC present its findings to the Select Board and the Economic Development Committee simultaneously. Ms. Iken said she'd arrange to have it put on the Select Board agenda.

6. Community Center Committee (CCDC) support

Mr. Bennett said he didn't think the committee has enough information to act further on the CCDC's work. He will, however, keep in touch with them and will probably attend one or more of their meetings. In answer to a question from Ms. Bacchi, Mr. Bennett said the Economic Development Committee's marketing strategy would be theirs to create. Mr. Bennett recommended a PBS documentary on the Telluride community's successful effort to save its valley from development.

Mr. Bennett said he'd emailed Peckham twice but hasn't heard back from them. Ms. Iken will share a phone number with him.

Ms. Iken reported that the CCDC has begun to look into the Shaftsbury Medical Center, which is on the market for \$375,000. (It might require \$100,000 to rehab it.) She said it is an ideal space for a Town Hall/community center. Should the purchase happen, the thought at present is that Cole Hall would become the community center. Dr. King owns the center. Mr. Bennett asked about how to handle the results of the community survey, which recommended spending the former ARPA funds on the new community center, not a Town Hall. Ms. Iken said community members have been pressing members of the CCDC to preserve Cole Hall.

Mr. Verocchi asked about the former Howard property on 7A. Is it to be subdivided? No one knew. No one knew as well what is happening with the old Stanley Tools building. Mr. Verocchi wondered whether the recent election might cause some people and businesses to consider moving to Vermont. Ms. Iken said she'd hope that Shaftsbury could repurpose things such as the Stanley Tools building. Ms. Bacchi suggested that the members of the Energy Committee have a look at the medical building before it is purchased. She also suggested that Heat Squad be contacted to do an energy audit of the medical building. She will mention it to the energy committee when they next meet.

7. Other business

There was none.

8. Action Items

Everyone will send their bios to Jen Holley for posting on the website.

Mr. Bennett will attend some CCDC meetings.

Ms. Bacchi will notify all when the survey form is published.

A walk through of Stanley Tools will be scheduled.

9. Next meeting

Mr. Verocchi moved to adjourn at about 5:30 p.m. Ms. Bacchi seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.