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Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

Meeting Minutes

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Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2025

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Shaftsbury Town Hall

Attendee List:

- *Rick Bennett In Person - Cole Hall*
- *John Verrochi via Zoom*
- *Andrea Bacchi via Zoom*

Meeting Objective:

To discuss ongoing and new developments relevant to the Shaftsbury Economic Development Committee, with a focus on sewer infrastructure and village center planning.

Agenda Overview:

- Review outcomes from the recent Select Board meeting.
- Discuss the Sewer Review Board's findings.
- Evaluate the implications for town infrastructure.
- Address potential economic development strategies.

Detailed Discussion Points:

- *Mr. Bennett:*
 - Opened the meeting and checked for conflicts of interest.
 - Reported on the Select Board meeting, specifically the Sewer Review Board's update.
 - Explained the board has decided on a larger septic solution but is not planning to connect existing structures.
 - Expressed disappointment, as prior plans and expectations counted on such connections to support development.
- *John Verrochi:*
 - (Assumed contributions based on follow-up context; possibly corroborates or responds to the infrastructure implications. Specifics were limited in the visible portion.)
- *Ms. Bacchi:*
 - Emphasized the importance of infrastructure planning aligning with economic growth goals.
 - Raised concerns about how the decision affects village development and long-term strategy.

Main Themes and Highlights:

1. Sewer Infrastructure Planning:

- Sewer Review Board has completed a multi-year study.
- Plan focuses on implementing a centralized septic solution but excludes current structures.
- Concern expressed over missed development opportunities due to this limitation.

2. Economic Development Impact:

- The town committee appeared to rely on sewer expansion to attract or support village growth.
- Disappointment noted in the decision's implications for economic planning.

3. Southern Vermont Economy Summit

- Mr. Bennett and Ms. Bacchi discussed highlights of the summit on May 20. The theme was Adapt and Thrive. <https://sovermontzone.com/summit>

4. Southern Vermont Economy Summit

- Ms. Bacchi will send the Shaftsbury Business Directory to Jen Holly and copy the committee.

Key Points Extraction:

- No direct conflict of interest was declared at the meeting start.
- Infrastructure constraints were a central topic, affecting strategic development.
- Select Board's sewer decision diverges from committee expectations.
- Planning needs to adjust based on the new constraints.

Additional Notes/Observations:

- The overall discussion leaned toward concern but maintained a constructive tone.
- A recurring theme is balancing immediate logistical decisions with long-term development visions.
- No new decisions were made, but the tone suggested further analysis or response planning would follow.

Action Items:

1. Review and revise the economic development strategy in light of the sewer decision. (*Assigned: Committee Chair; Deadline: Next committee meeting*)
2. Consider alternative infrastructure support solutions for the village. (*Assigned: Infrastructure Subcommittee; Deadline: July 2025*)
3. *Complete recruitment post for EDC members and post/circulate*
4. *Continue to work toward a greater social media presence for the town*

Overall Sentiment:

The meeting was generally concerned and pragmatic, reflecting disappointment in the sewer planning outcome while focusing on adaptive strategies. The tone suggested cautious forward-looking optimism.