



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

MINUTES
COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Executive Committee
Wednesday, September 19, 2018
4303 Route 9
Hudson, NY 12534

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) Executive Committee held at their offices located at 4303 Route 9, Hudson, NY 12534 on September 19, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 8:35am by Tony Jones, Chair.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tony Jones	Chair	Present	
David Fingar	Vice-Chair	Present	
Richard Bianchi	Treasurer	Excused	
Sarah Sterling	Secretary	Present	
James Calvin	Board Member	Present	
Gary Spielmann	Board Member	Excused	
Colin Stair	Board Member	Excused	
Andy Howard	CEDC Counsel	Present	
F. Michael Tucker	President/CEO	Present	
Lisa Drahushuk	Administrative Supervisor	Present	
Martha Lane	Business Development Specialist	Excused	
Erin McNary	Bookkeeper	Excused	
Ed Stiffler	Economic Developer	Excused	
Carol Wilber	Marketing Director	Excused	

Minutes:

Mr. Calvin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sterling to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2018 meeting. Carried.

CEDC Goat Research Study:

Mr. Tucker reported that the project was 95% complete. He noted a Beta website had been created and would be live once Empire State Development reviews the final documentation and issues their final approvals. He stated the project consisted of testing goats to determine which goats had the genetics to produce enough milk to supply cheese production for Hudson Valley Creamery. He noted the Hudson Valley Creamery had recently been awarded a \$350,000 CFA grant for their expansion. Mr. Jones stated the next step would be getting goat farms prepared to supply the creamery with enough milk for their production needs.

DNJ Properties, LLC Land Development Potential:

Mr. Tucker discussed the current vacant Commerce Park properties. Ms. Sterling noted that many people have no knowledge of the existence of the Commerce Park noting the park needed something that would attract businesses. Mr. Tucker noted sites could be made shovel ready certified, in advance of any proposed project. He felt the site cost would total between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

CEDC 2019 Strategic Initiatives and Budget:

Mr. Jones asked the Committee to consider the allocation of the funds received from the DNJ Properties while considering the 2019 budget. Mr. Tucker noted CEDC currently had \$120,000 in restricted funds obtained from Commerce Park land sales and funds set aside for construction of a water tower. He suggested that half of the funds be allocated to a reserve account and \$100,000 be allocated between 3 new initiatives.

Mr. Tucker reminded the Committee that the County has requested CEDC work on affordable housing, noting the work on workforce and education was important. The Committee discussed a reserve account to be used for certain projects, such as a county directed initiative or to assist a business in a relocation to the area. Mr. Calvin suggested some funds be set aside for project development/marketing. Mr. Tucker reviewed the draft budget with the Committee, noting he had included the Project Manager position.

Mr. Tucker addressed the 2016 Strategic Plan, noting that it would be updated for 2019 to reflect the changes over the past couple of years. He noted work continued on broadband with the county focus turning to housing.

Hudson IDA Contract Renewal – Update:

Mr. Tucker informed the Committee the HIDA had reviewed and renewed the contract extension for an additional year.

With no further business and no public in attendance, Mr. Calvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Fingar. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:50am.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Draushuk