Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – 2/20/26

Location: Zoom Meeting Online
Directors Attending in Person: None
Directors Attending Remotely: Conrad Harris, Dody Day, Emma Schumann, David Kupferman, Tina Norton
Directors Excused: Jill Jaret-Rossi, Ron Carter, Andrea Cohen, Erik Remmers, Joe Woodin
Also Attending: LEDC Executive Director Pat Ripley, LCPC Executive Director Tasha Wallis

LEDC ED Pat Ripley called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. Friday, February 20th. The group began with board member announcements. Conrad Harris mentioned a tour he had set up of the Johnson Woolen Mills site, which has seen many improvements since new ownership took over the business a few years ago. Many board members were unable to make the tour due to short notice and the group agreed to reschedule the visit for March. LEDC ED Pat Ripley agreed to reach out to Johnson Wollen Mills ownership to coordinate a site visit. The board also agreed that it would be good to tour new businesses and other businesses in the community at times to help spread the word about the work LEDC does and to help local entrepreneurs know that they too can be a part of the effort by joining LEDC and Lamoille Chamber's membership roster. It was also agreed that an ad in the local paper may help with recruitment and awareness, as well as some social media content. LEDC ED Pat Ripley mentioned that he is currently seeking a marketing and membership manager to assist in such efforts, among other things. This person would handle all marketing, including social media posts. This person would also handle membership recruitment, he said, adding that the LEDC membership drive will begin next week.

The group then moved on to updates from Lamoille County Planning Commission Executive Director Tasha Wallis. She mentioned that the board may be interested in a presentation on what projects LCPC is working on and the board agreed that it could be an interesting topic for a future meeting. LCPC is working on many infrastructure projects in the community, she said, including a $3 million grant for Morrisville water infrastructure improvements, Lamoille River flood modeling and mitigation work, Johnson flood mitigation work and wastewater treatment improvements, as well as an upcoming brownfields assessment grant application. LEDC ED Pat Ripley mentioned that LEDC has been named as a coalition member in the upcoming EDA grant application and that LEDC has been very active in the LCPC brownfields committee and assessment efforts. By taking a coalition approach to the application, it opens up additional funding for assessment work in Lamoille County. LCPC ED Tasha Wallis also mentioned the recent acquisition of a property in downtown Hyde Park that is being refurbished for a spa business. The group also discussed developments regarding the MSI industrial park site by the airport on Route 100. There has been significant opposition to the project locally. Conrad Harris mentioned that the MSI team is handling the project internally and the board agreed to move on from the topic.

The group then turned its attention to the December 19th meeting minutes. No meeting was held in January due to technical difficulties LEDC was having with its digital products. Board President Dody Day motioned to approve the minutes and David Kupferman seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LEDC ED Pat Ripley then turned his attention to the monthly financial reports. There were no major changes reported but ED Pat Ripley did outline some newly created line items regarding the GROW Vermont grant that started in January. He explained to the board how those funds will be managed and what to expect moving forward. Treasurer Tina Norton motioned to approve the financial reports and Emma Schumann seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The group then turned its attention to officer appointments. Board President Dody Day said that she had spoken with Tina Norton and that Tina was interested in taking the Vice President position. She also said she spoke with ED Pat Ripley about the Secretary position and that he was fine continuing on as secretary but that others could assume the role if they desired to do so. David Kupferman motioned to appoint Tina Norton to the Vice President role and Conrad Harris seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously. No board members expressed interest in the Secretary role and ED Pat Ripley agreed to continue handling that responsibility. The group also discussed options for note taking during the LEDC board meetings.

LEDC ED Pat Ripley then provided the board with updates on several ongoing projects, including the Johnson Mixed Use Park project, Cambridge Community Center and Legislative Breakfasts and advocacy. There were no questions on ED Pat Ripley's monthly report. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.