

TOWN OF LUNENBURG
Economic Development Committee
Virtual Meeting
August 18, 2025

Present Members: Chair Joeci Gilchrest, Vice Chair Ana Lockwood, Planning Board Representative Matt Brenner, Member Cathy Clark, Member Jeanne Dupre, Town Manager Jennifer Warren-Dyment

Absent Member: Agriculture Commission Representative Maryrae Holman

The meeting opened at 6:00 PM.

1. Reorganization

Joeci Gilchrest volunteered to be the Chair, this was seconded by Ana Lockwood. Cathy Clark aye, Jeanne Dupre aye, Ana Lockwood aye, Joeci Gilchrest aye. All in favor.

Joeci Gilchrest nominated Ana Lockwood for the Vice Chair position. Ana Lockwood accepted the nomination. Cathy Clark aye, Jeanne Dupre aye, Joeci Gilchrest aye, Ana Lockwood aye. All in favor.

2. Town Official Meet and Greet

Joeci Gilchrest is disappointed with the lack of meetings and states nothing has been completed for this event.

Jeanne Dupre questions if this event is more suitable to be handled by the Lunenburg Business Association as opposed to the Economic Development Committee. Joeci Gilchrest states that the LBA can't direct town initiatives. Matt Brenner believes this event is associated with the charge of the EDC.

Jennifer Warren-Dyment suggests pushing the event into the winter season. Ana Lockwood suggests using the school location or the senior center if this is scheduled during the winter months.

Ultimately, Joeci Gilchrest suggests reaching out to Smokestack Roasters as a possible venue and pushing the event into October.

Matt Brenner suggests putting together a subgroup that does not constitute a quorum for planning purposes. Additionally, discussion and decisions could be made in a timelier manner.

Joeci Gilchrest will create an invitation on Eventbrite and provide the Committee with the list of tasks used at previous Meet and Greet.

3. Planning Department Updates

Matt Brenner provided the following updates:

There is a new administrator for the Planning Board Department, Jennifer

Daigle.

Brian Gingras has been a very helpful asset as there is no Land Use Director.

Adam Burney is volunteering on the Planning Board until the next election.

Matt Brenner confirms the Planning Department wants to continue supporting the EDC despite the lack of staff.

4. Discussion of Committee Charge

The charge was created by the Planning Board, and the EDC is an ad hoc committee to the Planning Board. There will be further discussion when there is a Land Use Director in place.

5. Business Updates

Joeci Gilchrest confirms the LBA does have upcoming events with opportunity to meet locals.

There was discussion about an email from Cathy Clark with business updates.

6. Next steps: Mission and Vision of the EDC

Matt Brenner suggests the EDC members start thinking about what their committee is tasked to do and what they would like to see with the Committee moving forward.

Joeci Gilchrest would like to seek out resources, connections, and education for the Committee.

Jennifer Warren-Dymont states she has seen prior communities struggle connecting to businesses directly. She suggests reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce, other municipalities, and other Economic Development Committees.

7. Dates and times for regularly scheduled meetings

Ana Lockwood suggests sending a survey to the members to check availability.

Joeci Gilchrest shared that the Small Town Initiative created by Margaret Scarsdale currently does not have a Lunenburg representative.

There was a discussion about prior meeting minutes. There are many missing minutes online that had previously been approved but haven't been posted.

There was a motion to adjourn by Joeci Gilchrest, seconded by Ana Lockwood. Joeci Gilchrest aye, Ana Lockwood aye.

The meeting closed at 7:20 PM.