

# Meeting Notes

## 20/20 Economic Development Sub-Committee

Time and date: 7:30 AM, Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Location: Town Hall Room 101

Attendees: Keith Bennett, John Guastella, George Leveille, Joe Richardson

Elected Officials/Staff present: Sam Messina, Mike Morelli, Terry Ritz, Robin Nagengast

- 
- 1. Review of June 13, 2011 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes were accepted.
  - 2. Vista Tech Campus Update:** The details are being finalized. The construction contract with August Bohl Contracting Company for the infrastructure, valid until June 30, 2012, will be executed after the bond closing. Phase 1B will be on the Planning Board agenda for the September 6 meeting.
  - 3. Town-wide economic development partnership update:** Supervisor Messina said the meeting with the full board and new superintendent of Ravena Coeymans Selkirk School District was positive and the partnership concept was well-received. The next steps are to present the concept to the IDA at their September 28 meeting and meet with the Bethlehem Central School District and eventually the Albany County leadership. The proposed schedule is to have an advance meeting with IDA leadership the week of September 12 and to invite the legislators from the Town of Bethlehem to the next Sub-Committee meeting October 12. Supervisor Messina also indicated that there was a great deal of interest among businesses in the Selkirk Yards area to revive the Selkirk Yards Industrial District (SYID) focus group, which should be included in the economic development strategy recommendations.
  - 4. Draft Economic Development Strategy discussion:** There was a discussion of the draft strategy document and the tone of the wording, which could be more positive and less controversial. There was agreement among committee members and staff that there is an image perception gap in town that could be mitigated in part by making more information on development available. One suggestion was to revive the IDA newsletter, but with a combined focus on approved Planning Board projects and IDA initiatives. Terry Ritz suggested talking with developers to find out what is and isn't working for them.  
  
There was also a consensus on the need for someone to represent the Town's economic development interests in the region and to work within IDA governmental guidelines.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the sub-committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, at 7:30 AM in Town Hall. (Subsequently postponed to November 7, 2011)