

Town of Richlands
Industrial/Economic Development Authority
November 6th, 2023

The Richlands IEDA held a regular monthly meeting at 6:00 P.M. with the following present:

Joseph Vance	Dr. Brandon Buskill
Craig Earls	Dillion Smith

Members Absent: Jeff Casey
Town Representatives: Jordan Bales, Laura Mollo
Guests:

Dr. Brandon Buskill called the meeting to order. Joseph Vance opened with prayer and a moment of silence for passing of our IEDA Chairman - Pastor Phillip Horton.

Joseph Vance made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Brandon Buskill seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

The minutes from the October 6th, 2023, meetings were presented. Dr. Brandon Buskill made a motion to approve the minutes. Dillion Smith seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

New Business:

IEDA Member Appointment Recommendations:

Dillion Smith: I want to let the members know that if he potentially sells his house, that he may be out of town limits. He will keep the IEDA apprised of any potential changes in his residency.

Joseph Vance: I messaged Cody Harman and asked if he is interested in serving on the IEDA. He confirmed he was willing to serve. He owns a conveyor company here in Richlands and has a great background in business.

Craig Earls made a motion to recommend Cody Harman as the next IEDA member, subject to approval from the Richlands Town Council. Joseph Vance seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Craig Earls: We also need to appoint a new IDA Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Joseph Vance made a motion to appoint Dr. Brandon Buskill as the IEDA Chairman. Joseph Vance seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye", except Dr. Brandon Buskill who abstained. Motion carried.

Dillion Smith made a motion to appoint Joseph Vance as the IEDA Vice-Chairman. Dr. Brandon Buskill seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye", except Joseph Vance who abstained. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous IEDA Topics:

Laura Mollo: Did we invite Tim Danielson to our meeting.

Jordan Bales: Yes, we did invite him.

Laura Mollo: The Chamber of Commerce is also another resource, but it seems like we get overlooked at times. We really want help for us here in Richlands as well. Group discussed.

Craig Earls: Do we still have the funding for an economic developer position?

Laura Mollo: Yes, that is built into the current budget. We were waiting for the Town Manager to be hired.

Dr. Brandon Buskill: Jeff Casey called me and mentioned that the metal and stud business is still interested in coming to Richlands possibly, but they need land. Does anyone know what land the town may own around the airport?

Jordan Bales: I know a lot of that was in the Mullins family that was sold to Dominion Agriculture. I don't think that the town owns anything down there.

Laura Mollo: The doctor who owns the old Washington Square Clinic building is exploring ways to change this into apartments. We advised that he needs to go through the Planning Commission. He may also come to a Town Council meeting to discuss.

Jordan Bales: Shane Clem would like to talk to the IEDA about potential grants.

Group: We can invite him to our next meeting.

Dr. Brandon Buskill: We wanted to research local incentives for promoting businesses. We will need to work with the Town Council, but I think we have incentives and grants available for new businesses.

Laura Mollo: CNX is also looking for some property to put equipment and supplies. The group discussed the iron street property that may be an option in the future.

Jordan Bales: If the Recreation Commission champions the VT walking trail, do you guys want to help with that?

Craig Earls: I think that the Planning Commission/Zoning Board may be another group to help with any land use or zoning issues that may come up with that project.

Dr. Brandon Buskill: Rick Barton has helped get grants and things in the past.

Craig Earls made a motion to adjourn. Joseph Vance seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Next Meeting December 4th, at 6:00 P.M