

A nighttime photograph of a street intersection in Essex, Vermont. The scene is illuminated by streetlights and traffic lights, with wet pavement reflecting the lights. In the background, there are buildings and trees.

Town of Essex, Vermont

▶ Economic Development Vision & Plan

Essex Economic Development Vision and Plan

Community Workshop
Monday, Nov. 16th
4:00 – 7:00 pm



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WELCOME!

- Introductions

4:30 Presentation & First “Turning Point” Questions

5:30 Group Discussions & Visioning Exercise

6:30 Next “Turning Point” Questions & Discussion

- Workshop Leaders

Town of Essex: Pat Scheidel, Dana Farley, Greg Morgan

BBPA: Jim Prost, Kate Bolinger

VHB: Geoffrey Morrison-Logan, Juli Beth Hinds



The Vision and Plan are intended to...

- Look critically and thoroughly at the economic development climate, conditions, and opportunities in Essex
- Develop consensus about what a desired economic future should be – what should “economic development” mean in Essex?

To this point, we have:

- Interviewed 30+ stakeholders – private, non-profit, and public sectors - in Essex Junction, Essex, and around the County
- Evaluated demographic and economic data
- Identified potential economic “clusters”
- Compiled strengths & weaknesses

Economic Development Vision & Plan

Strengths	Weaknesses
Great Place to Live	Permitting Process
Great Place for Families	Transportation Access
Top-Notch Schools	Restrictive Zoning
Educated Labor Pool	Lack of a Vision for Econ. Dev.
Innovators (Patents)	Region is not Unified
Cache of IBM	Lack of \$ Resources
Diversity of Community	State Incentive Toolbox
Recreational Opportunities	Retiring Population = Fewer Workers
Sewer, Water & Gas Capacity	Cost of Living is Expensive
Available/Affordable Commercial Space	Taxes are High
Civic-Minded Population	Power is Expensive

Why a “vision” exercise?

- Lack of a well-supported vision for economic development cited as a limitation on business development
- Role of other promising, future sectors not as well understood
- Need to match resources (land, grants, investments) to opportunities.

Tonight's Meeting

- Basile Baumann Prost Advisors (BBPA) will give an overview of the economic setting and drivers in Essex
- Everyone will 'VOTE' with Turning Point keypads to tell us who's here, and what "economic development" in Essex is for you personally
- BBPA will provide more information on Essex
- We'll break into groups and use images and maps to discuss your vision of the Town's economic future
- We'll reassemble, and use Turning Point to test out some possible economic vision statements
- Wrap up and discussion

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An Economic Overview

Jim Prost & Kate Bolinger

Basile Baumann Prost Advisors



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Turning Point #1



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Economic Clusters

Jim Prost & Kate Bollinger

Basile Baumann Prost Advisors



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Group Work Sessions

Please go to the table corresponding to the color of the DOT on your nametag



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Group Reporting & Turning Point Reactions



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Next Steps in the Study

- Presentations, information on the website
- Economic analysis & reporting
- Implementation plan development

Feedback: www.vhb.com/essex

Community Development Department:

Economic Development Committee:

THANK YOU!

