

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FEBRUARY 10, 2010**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Deb Billado (Vice President), George Tyler, John Lajza (Larry Yandow and Peter Gustafson were absent).
ADMINISTRATION: David Crawford, Village Manager; Robin Pierce, Development Director; Sawyer Joecks, Management Intern

Deb Billado called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM in the cafeteria of the Essex Community Educational Center.

1. ALL ABOARD DOWNTOWN ESSEX JUNCTION PUBLIC FORUM

Susan McCormack, Village resident and Consultant, in conjunction with the Railroad Avenue Revitalization Committee, organized the forum as follow-up to the Central Street/Railroad Avenue meeting on 6/17/09. There were 120 people present, including new residents, longtime residents, several property owners, at least 11 business owners and 11 public officials (Legislative Representatives, Trustees, Planning Commission members and a Selectboard member).

Forum participants deliberated about a range of strategies for revitalizing the downtown. They acknowledged that many of the strategies are interrelated and all of them are important. With that said, three very clear themes emerged: Create an event series; renovate the train station; and add parks and green space. There also appeared to be strong support for looking into improving traffic patterns, providing pedestrian space and the Crescent Connector Road.

Additional strategies that had significant support were: bring restaurants and shops to the area, marketing, parking and update zoning ordinances.

Ms. McCormack will present a summary of the forum to the Trustees to establish the next steps for the Village.

2. ADJOURNMENT

John Lajza moved and George Tyler seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. The motion passed 3-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by David A. Crawford, Village Manager.